WEIRD ADVENTURES ON OTHER WORLDS—THE UNIVERSE OF THE FUTURE

PLANET COMICS

10¢ NOV. No. 27

GALE ALLEN AND THE GIRL SQUADRON
invade the smoking world of cave-monsters
IN "THE FIRE-EATERS OF ASTEROID Z"

MARS, GOD OF WAR

STAR PIRATE

HUNT BOWMAN IN
"THE LOST WORLD"

NEW in RANGERS COMICS!

INSIDE THE BLOOD-DRENCHED TERROR-CITADEL THAT IS NAZI EUROPE A MYSTERIOUS LEADER OF HOODED LEGIONS STRIKES SUDDEN FEAR INTO SWASTIKA HEARTS...

COMMANDO RANGER

DON'T MISS HIS FIRST AMAZING ADVENTURE...

IN

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PHANTOM FALCONS..
THE SEA DEVIL...
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WEREWOLF HUNTER
and many others...

A FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINE

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THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS (No. 28, JAN.) WILL BE ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTAND NOV. 10th.

The Lost WORLD

A BRAWNY ARCHER AND A LITHE, ROYAL BEAUTY TREK WESTWARD TOWARD THE RUINS OF CHICAGO WHERE CENTURIES BEFORE, EARTH'S LAST DEFENDERS WERE ANNIHILATED BY ROCKET-BORNE HORDES FROM THE PLANET VOLTA. THE ARCHER IS **HUNT BOWMAN**...DESCENDANT OF THE SURVIVING HANDFUL OF HUMANS...THE GIRL IS **LYSSA**, QUEEN OF A STRANGE MAN-TRIBE ON A DISTANT SPHERE. DRAWN TOGETHER AS CAPTIVES ON A VOLTA PATROL SHIP, HUNT AND LYSSA ESCAPED TO EARTH...**THE LOST WORLD!**

AFTER DUSK, LYSSA SPIES A VAGUE SHAPE IN THE SWAYING GRASS...

WHAT WAS THAT, HUNT? SEE? OUT ON THE PLAINS!
A BEAR... NO! IT STOOD UPRIGHT, BUT I COULDN'T MAKE IT OUT. DON'T WORRY. OUR FIRE WILL KEEP ANIMALS AWAY.

SPURNING FEAR, LYSSA DROPS ASLEEP..THEN THE FIRE DIES IN GLOWING EMBERS. A WEIRD INHUMAN THING EMERGES FROM THE DEEP SHADOWS.
THE CREATURE TURNS AWAY QUICKLY, WHISPERS IN A HUSKY MONOTONE.
COME SEE! ONE OF THEM SLEEPS. EASY TO CATCH!
YES.. YES!
A SHE-ONE LIKE OUR BAD QUEEN. I TAKE HER ALIVE. WE THREE CAN DRAG HER TO MY DEN.
CLOSE BY, LOBO CATCHES THE STRANGE SCENT, AND HIS GROWL AWAKENS HUNT BOWMAN...
WHAT STIRS? OH.. SHAPES HOVER BY LYSSA!
IN A FLASH HUNT DRAWS HIS STURDY WEAPON...
BEASTS OR MEN, IF I KILL ONE THE OTHERS WILL FLEE!
HUNT! LOBO!
THEY RUN LIKE RABBITS! WHAT SORT OF CREATURES ARE THEY? DID THEY BEAR GUNS OR CLUBS?
NO.. THEY SEEMED TO BE HUMANS OF A CRUDE, BESTIAL TYPE
WHA.. WHERE'D THEY GO? THEY DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY!
YES.. BUT I DON'T SEE HOW! LOBO COULD OUTRUN THEM BUT ODDLY HE'S TROTTING BACK!

THEIR AMAZEMENT PERSISTS THROUGH THE NIGHT...
I'M SURE I WOUNDED ONE OF 'EM SO WE'VE GOT TO BEWARE OF AN ATTACK.
AT DAWN HUNT'S CURIOSITY IS FURTHER AROUSED..
FOOTPRINTS! HUMAN IN SHAPE BUT THOSE MARKS SHOW THEY HAVE CLAWS!
LET'S FOLLOW THEIR TRACKS, HUNT.
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS? THE TRAIL LEADS TO THAT BURROW!
THEY MUST LIVE LIKE ANIMALS, IN DENS! I NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A RACE OF MEN!
NO..MOST LIKELY THEY DON'T COME OUT IN DAYLIGHT. LET'S MOVE ON TO CHICAGO!
BLOOD SPOTS! THAT PROVES I HIT ONE OF 'EM. SHALL WE WAIT UNTIL THEY COME OUT?
ANCIENT RUINS MARK EARTH'S LAST STAND AGAINST THE MASSACRING SKY HORDES FROM VOLTA, WARRIOR WORLD OF THE GALAXIES...
NOW THAT WE'RE NEARER THE CITY THERE ARE MANY MORE BURROWS!
YES..THERE MUST BE A GREAT COLONY UNDER GROUND, BUT THERE'S NO SIGN THAT THEY WORK OR LIVE AMONG THESE RUINS.
NO, I'M WRONG. LOOK UP THERE.. TWO PISTONS DRIVEN BY A HUGE FLYWHEEL!
I'VE AN IDEA, HUNT! STOP THAT MACHINE AND THE RESULT MAY EXPLAIN IT'S PURPOSE. HURRY, BEFORE ANY BURROWING MEN APPEAR!

OUR CURIOSITY MAY BRING TROUBLE. HURRY.. TURN THAT VALVE AND WE'LL RUN!
THIS ENGINE PUMPS AIR INTO THE GROUND! COME ON.. LET'S GO!
MOVING SWIFTLY THROUGH RUINS OF ANCIENT INDUSTRIES, THEY REACH A SILENT RIVER...
THE TRESTLE WAS WASHED AWAY HERE. SHALL WE SWIM OUT TO THE SPAN?
NO... I HEAR THE RING OF A DISTANT BELL. PROBABLY AN ALARM. LET'S MAKE FOR THAT ISLAND IN MIDSTREAM.
WITH A JOYFUL YELP, LOBO FOLLOWS THEIR FLASHING FORMS..
HUNT! THAT'S NOT A NATURAL ISLAND. SEE?
GREAT STARS.. YOU'RE RIGHT! IT WAS A BOAT.. SUNK DURING THE VOLTA INVASION AGES AGO!
LYSSA FALLS PREY AS BOWMAN AND HIS WOLFDOG HURL THEIR FURY AGAINST THE SUDDEN ASSAULT.
SLAUGHTER IS THE ONLY LAW KNOWN TO YOU DEVILS OF THE NETHERWORLD.. SO IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED!
HUNT!
AS HUNT AND QUEEN LYSSA GROPE FOR A HOLD, WEIRD MEN SPRING FROM HIDING..

WITH A TREMENDOUS LURCH, HUNT DISLODGES HIS STRANGE OPPONENT.
ANOTHER ONE RUSHING ME! I'LL HAVE TO GET ASHORE BEFORE HE HURLS HIS SPEAR!
HE'S AS FERODOUS AS A CORNERED BEAST. NOTHING BUT AN ARROW WILL STOP HIS CHARGE!
A VIBRANT TWANG RINGS OUT AS HUNT LOOSES A SHAFT FROM HIS GREAT LONGBOW...
FROM THE UNDERBRUSH ANOTHER SPRINGS TO DAUNT HUNT'S FURY!
MY BLOW SCARCELY JARRED HIM! BUT HE STAGGERS BLINDLY IN THE SUNLIGHT WITHOUT HIS GOGGLES?
AWARE BY LOBO'S YELPS THAT THE OTHERS ARE FLEEING, HUNT SURGES BACK TO AID LYSSA...
YOU CAN'T STRUGGLE FREE! SAVE YOUR STRENGTH! I'LL SMASH HIM DOWN!
5

RUSHING BACK SUDDENLY, LOBO RELIEVES HUNT OF THE BLOODY TASK..
GIVE ME YOUR HAND, LYSSA! THE ONES WHO FLED MAY RETURN WITH REINFORCE-MENTS. WE'LL HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE, FAST!
DUSK IS FALLING WHEN THEY REACH THE OPPOSITE BANK.
SHH! I HEAR SOUNDS.. LIKE VOICES!
IN THE MURKY SHADOWS AROUND THEM SINISTER FIGURES SCRAMBLE FROM BURROWS..
GREAT STARS! WE WALKED INTO A TRAP.. THEY'RE STREAMING OUT OF EVERY DEN!
YES.. THERE'S NO WAY TO ESCAPE FROM THEM, HUNT.. NOT ABOVE GROUND SURELY.
RIGHT! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO DIVE INTO A BURROW.. FOLLOW ME!
WITH BARED FANGS, THE WOLF-DOG GUARDS THEIR BLIND RETREAT..
LOBO WILL HOLD THEM OFF FOR AWHILE, BUT...
WE'LL RUN DOWN THIS TUNNEL AND EMERGE FROM THE FIRST EXIT WE COME UPON!
6

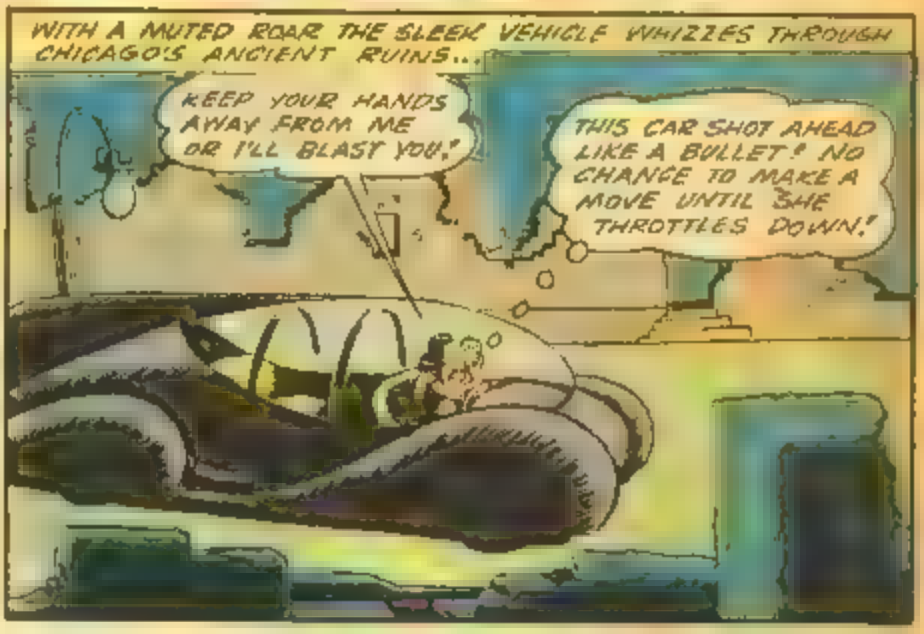
HUNT! WE'RE TRAPPED! BURROW MEN RUSHING UP FROM BEHIND.. AND THE DRAWBRIDGE IS RAISED FROM THIS UNDERGROUND RIVER! HOW CAN WE ESCAPE?
QUICK! JUMP INTO THE STREAM!
BRR! THIS WATER IS ICY! GRAB MY HAND OR THE CURRENT WILL SWEEP YOU INTO THAT TUNNEL!
NEAR THAT ROAR? MUST BE A CATARACT AHEAD! CATCH HOLD OF THE WALL, HUNT!
CAN'T! THE ROCKS ARE TOO SLIMY TO HANG ON TO!
SWEPT DOWN THE THUNDERING RACE, THEY ARE HURLED OVER THE CREST OF A WATERFALL..
HUNT! WE'LL BE SMASHED UPON THE ROCKS!
NO! HOLD YOUR BREATH!
OOWUFF! A SAFETY NET, AND AN EERIE GLOW LIGHTS THIS CAVERN!
YES.. JUMP DOWN, HUNT. THERE'S A PLATFORM AND ONE WALL FORMS THE SIDE OF A HUGE AQUARIUM!
WHAT KIND OF MAGIC IS THIS?
I CAN'T IMAGINE! BUT LOOK! THERE'S AN ARCH BENEATH. IT'S THE ONLY EXIT FROM THE GROTTO!

A DOWN-DRAFT FROM THE FALLS CREATES TERRIFIC SUCTION THROUGH THE ARCHWAY..
HEY, WHAT?
HUNT!
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
WHEW! UH? LOOK! A MODERN HUMAN LIKE OURSELVES!
NOW TAKE IT EASY, YOU TWO, OR I'LL LET LOOSE WITH THIS ELECTRON GUN! I'M MAROVA, QUEEN OF CHICAGO'S UNDERWORLD.
SOME DAY I'LL REIGN OVER THE ENTIRE EARTH.. AND SATAN HELP THIS LOST WORLD'S ENEMIES FROM VOLTA PLANET WHO FAIL TO FLEE FROM THEIR TERRESTIAL OUTPOSTS!
YOU MUST BE DESCENDED FROM THE GANG LORDS WHO RULED CHICAGO. BUT WHO ARE YOUR SUBJECTS?
THE GOPHER PEOPLE! THEIR ANCESTORS WERE AS HUMAN AS YOU OR I. FEAR OF THE VOLTAMEN DROVE THEM TO LIVING UNDER GROUND
THEN WE HAVE A COMMON FOE. I WAS BORN ON THE MIDWESTERN PLAINS.. BEEN FIGHTING VOLTAS EVER SINCE THEY MASSACRED MY BROTHERS!
HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT LYING? GUARDS! SEIZE THIS MAN! THE VOLTAS SENT HIM TO SPY ON OUR COLONY!
FROM CLEVERLY CONCEALED ALCOVES MAROVA'S BODYGUARDS POUNCE BEFORE HUNT CAN WHIRL TO DEFEND HIMSELF..
8

GOOD! NOW DRAG HIM OUT TO THE DUMP FOR THE RATS TO GNAW ON. THEN HANG HIS SKELETON AT THE AIR PUMP AS A WARNING TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT DARE MEDDLE WITH IT!
NO! NO! YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND! HUNT DIDN'T KNOW..

WH WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? PLEASE. LISTEN TO REASON!
YOU AND I ARE GOING TO BARTER WITH THE VOLTA PATROL!

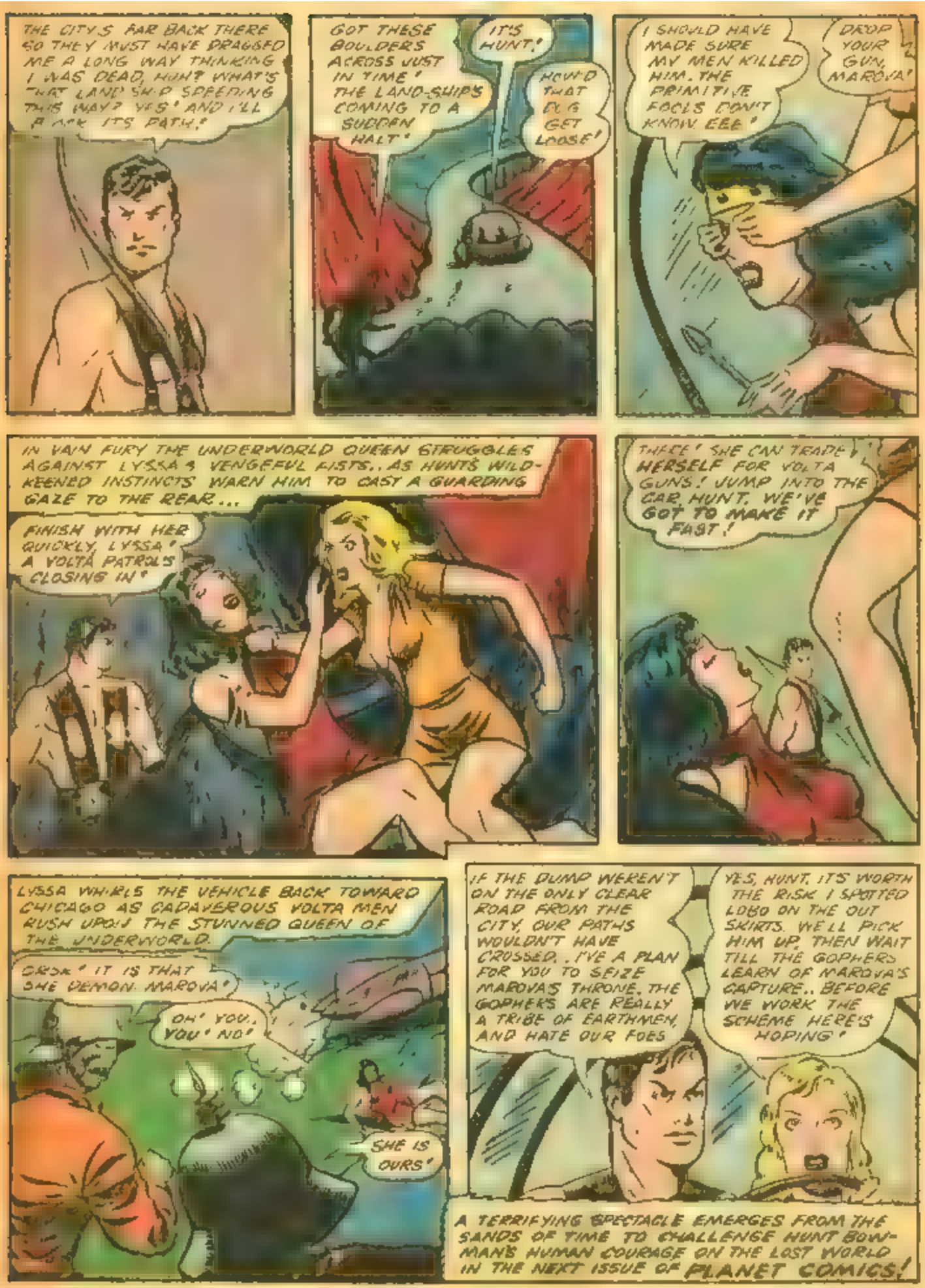
LYSSA IS FORCED THROUGH A MAZE OF TUNNELS TO THE SURFACE..
GET IN! IT WAS A NEW MODEL AGES AGO WHEN EARTH WAS RAVAGED, BUT IT STILL RUNS!
I'LL GRAB FOR HER GUN WHEN SHE TAKES THE WHEEL!


WITH A MUTED ROAR THE SLEEK VEHICLE WHIZZES THROUGH CHICAGO'S ANCIENT RUINS...
KEEP YOUR HANDS AWAY FROM ME OR I'LL BLAST YOU!
THIS CAR SHOT AHEAD LIKE A BULLET! NO CHANCE TO MAKE A MOVE UNTIL SHE THROTTLES DOWN!

I'VE BRIBED THE LOCAL VOLTA PATROL, THEY'D HAVE SENT WORD TO ME ABOUT YOU AND BOWMAN IF YOU HADN'T BEEN SENT TO SPY ON MY UNDERWORLD EMPIRE!

SO I'LL FOOL THEM AND YOUR SPYMASTER THEY'LL GIVE ME A CASE OF ELECTRONIC GUNS FOR A HUMAN GIRL..
NO! YOU'LL NEVER TURN ME OVER TO THOSE FIENDS ALIVE!

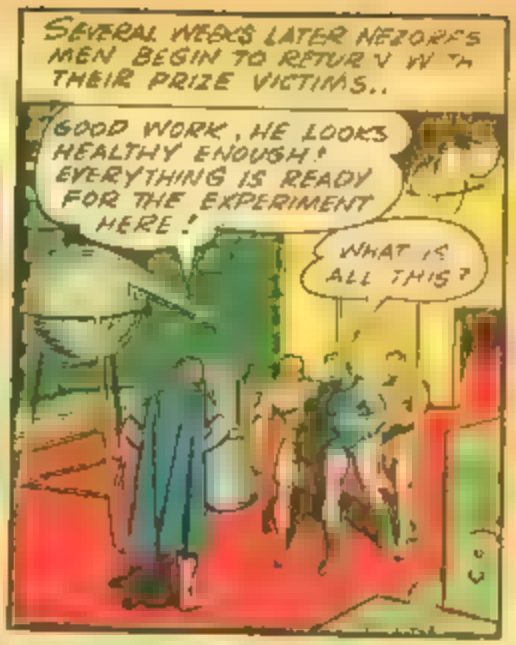
BUT SOME TIME BEFORE, THE STING OF RODENT TEETH AROUSED HUNT'S NUMBED SENSES...
WHA.. WHERE?..A RAT INFESTED DUMP! BUT WHOEVER LEFT ME HERE DIDN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF MY BOW AND ARROWS. I MUST SEARCH FOR LYSSA AT ONCE!


THE CITY'S FAR BACK THERE SO THEY MUST HAVE DRAGGED ME A LONG WAY THINKING I WAS DEAD, HUNT? WHAT'S THAT LAND SHIP SPEEDING THIS WAY? YES! AND I'LL BLOCK ITS PATH!
GOT THESE BOULDERS ACROSS JUST IN TIME! THE LAND-SHIP'S COMING TO A SUDDEN HALT!
IT'S HUNT!
HOW'D THAT DOG GET LOOSE!
I SHOULD HAVE MADE SURE MY MEN KILLED HIM. THE PRIMITIVE FOOLS DON'T KNOW EEE!
DROP YOUR GUN, MAROVA!
IN VAIN FURY THE UNDERWORLD QUEEN STRUGGLES AGAINST LYSSA'S VENGEFUL FISTS.. AS HUNT'S WILD-KEENED INSTINCTS WARN HIM TO CAST A GUARDING GAZE TO THE REAR...
FINISH WITH HER QUICKLY, LYSSA! A VOLTA PATROL'S CLOSING IN!
THERE! SHE CAN TRADE HERSELF FOR VOLTA GUNS! JUMP INTO THE CAR, HUNT. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE IT FAST!
LYSSA WHIRLS THE VEHICLE BACK TOWARD CHICAGO AS CADAVEROUS VOLTA MEN RUSH UPON THE STUNNED QUEEN OF THE UNDERWORLD.
GROK! IT IS THAT SHE DEMON MAROVA!
OH! YOU, YOU! NO!
SHE IS OURS!
IF THE DUMP WEREN'T ON THE ONLY CLEAR ROAD FROM THE CITY, OUR PATHS WOULDN'T HAVE CROSSED. I'VE A PLAN FOR YOU TO SEIZE MAROVA'S THRONE. THE GOPHERS ARE REALLY A TRIBE OF EARTHMEN, AND HATE OUR FOES
YES, HUNT, IT'S WORTH THE RISK I SPOTTED LOBO ON THE OUT SKIRTS. WE'LL PICK HIM UP, THEN WAIT TILL THE GOPHERS LEARN OF MAROVA'S CAPTURE.. BEFORE WE WORK THE SCHEME HERE'S HOPING!
A TERRIFYING SPECTACLE EMERGES FROM THE SANDS OF TIME TO CHALLENGE HUNT BOWMAN'S HUMAN COURAGE ON THE LOST WORLD IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

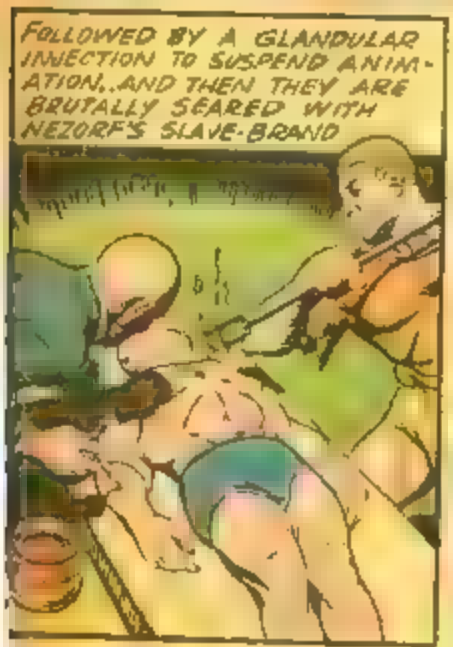
MARS
AT A COUNCIL MEETING ON THE PLANETOID SUAR NEZOR, THE TYRANT LEADER SPEAKS..
THIS IS THE GREATEST PLAN EVER CONCEIVED... WE SHALL CONTROL ALL SPACE WITH POWER STORED UP OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS BY MEANS OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION!
YOU SEE EACH ONE OF YOU WILL MAKE A GRAND TOUR OF SPACE .. GATHERING PERFECT PHYSICAL SPECIMENS FROM EVERY RACE YOU CONTACT!

THESE YOU MUST BRING HERE FOR MY SUSPENSION TREATMENT'
I DON'T LIKE THAT IDEA.. WE RUN TOO GREAT A RISK OF BEING CAPTURED WHILE VISITING THE DIFFERENT PLANETS'
YES, THERE MUST BE A SAFER WAY!

PERHAPS, GENTLEMEN, I DIDN'T MAKE MYSELF CLEAR IF ANY OF YOU CAUSE TROUBLE, YOUR KINSMEN WILL BE TORTURED AND KILLED!

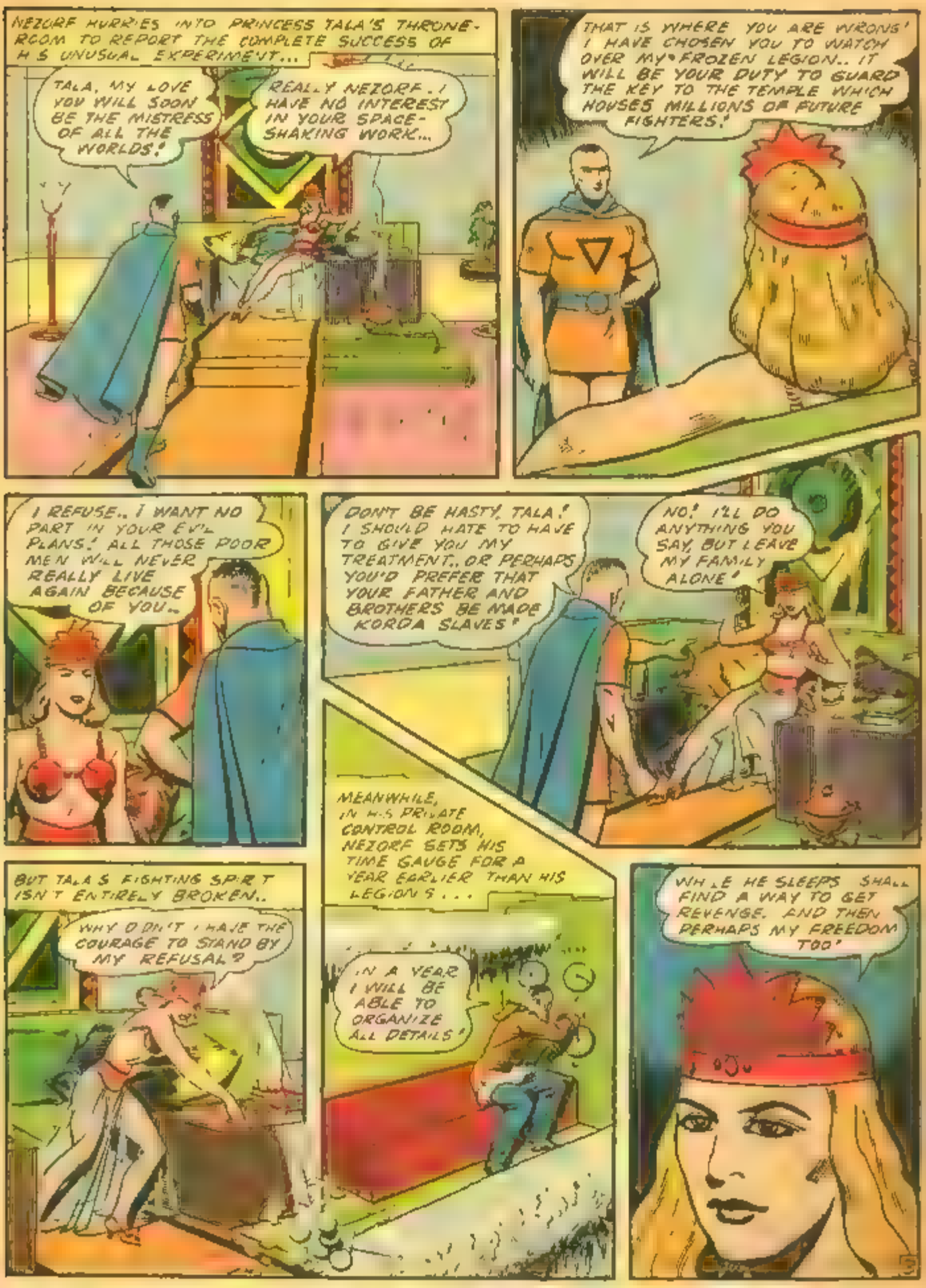

SEVERAL WEEKS LATER NEZORF'S MEN BEGIN TO RETURN WITH THEIR PRIZE VICTIMS..
GOOD WORK, HE LOOKS HEALTHY ENOUGH! EVERYTHING IS READY FOR THE EXPERIMENT HERE!
WHAT IS ALL THIS?

DESTRUCTION OF REASON BY MEANS OF ELECTRONIC SHOCK IS THE FIRST STEP IN TRANSFORMING THINKING BEINGS INTO THRALL-LIKE AUTOMATONS OF THE KORDA KLAN.

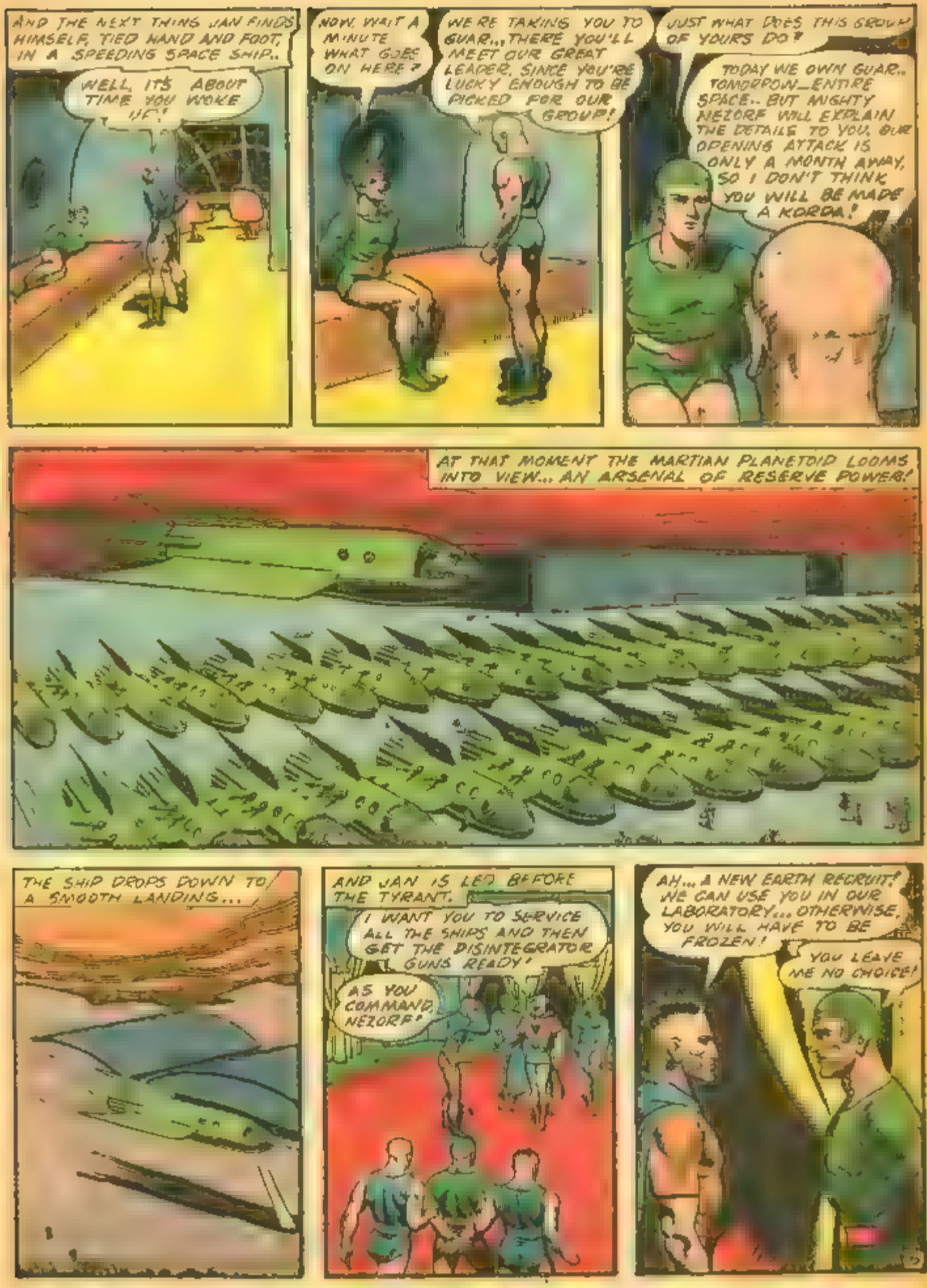

FOLLOWED BY A GLANDULAR INJECTION TO SUSPEND ANIMATION..AND THEN THEY ARE BRUTALLY SEARED WITH NEZORF'S SLAVE-BRAND

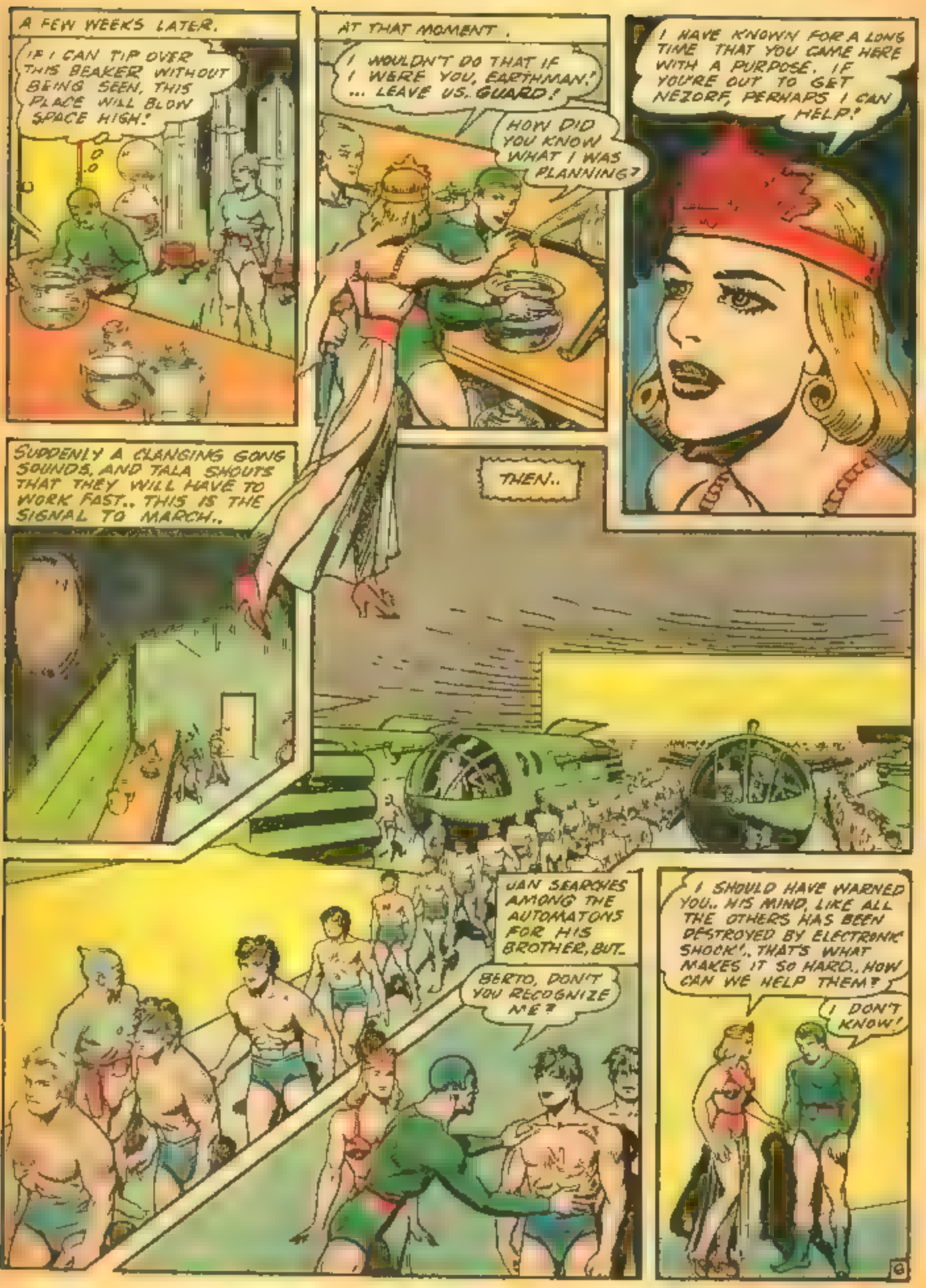
FINALLY THEY ARE PACKED AWAY MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE TO AWAIT THE DAY WHEN THE TYRANT SHALL CALL THEM FORTH TO OBEY HIS BLOODY WILL..

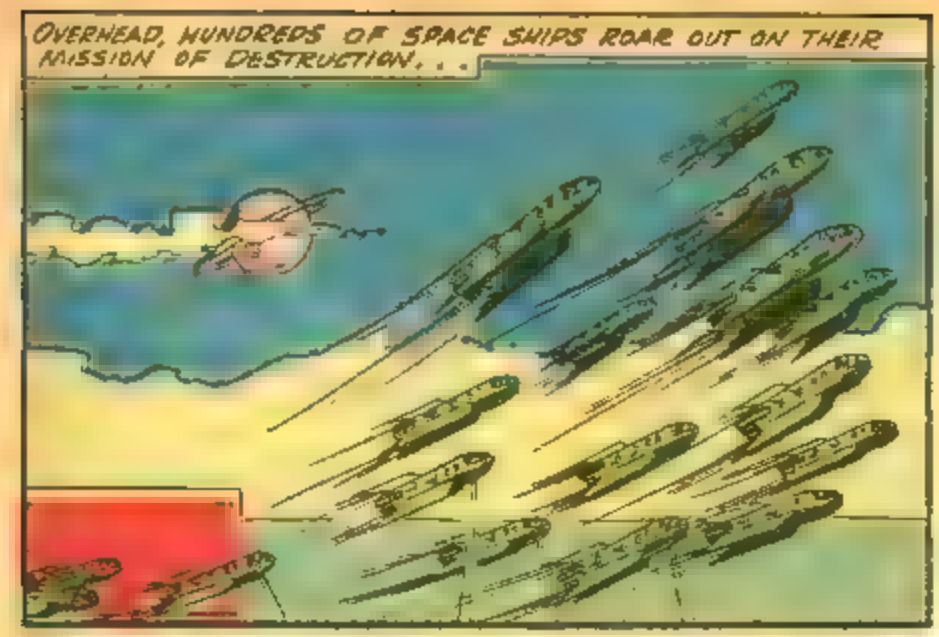
THEY WILL AWAKEN IN 25 YEARS..BY THAT TIME MY PLANS WILL BE COMPLETE, AND I'LL HAVE ENOUGH MEN TO CONQUER ENTIRE SPACE!

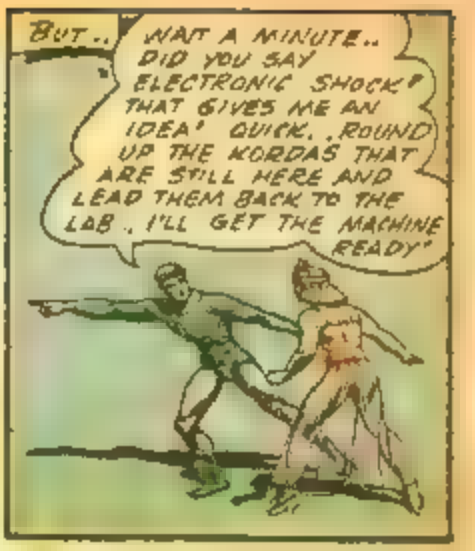

NEZORF HURRIES INTO PRINCESS TALA'S THRONE-ROOM TO REPORT THE COMPLETE SUCCESS OF HIS UNUSUAL EXPERIMENT...
TALA, MY LOVE YOU WILL SOON BE THE MISTRESS OF ALL THE WORLDS!
REALLY NEZORF.. I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOUR SPACE-SHAKING WORK...
THAT IS WHERE YOU ARE WRONG! I HAVE CHOSEN YOU TO WATCH OVER MY FROZEN LEGION.. IT WILL BE YOUR DUTY TO GUARD THE KEY TO THE TEMPLE WHICH HOUSES MILLIONS OF FUTURE FIGHTERS!
I REFUSE.. I WANT NO PART IN YOUR EVIL PLANS! ALL THOSE POOR MEN WILL NEVER REALLY LIVE AGAIN BECAUSE OF YOU..
DON'T BE HASTY, TALA! I SHOULD HATE TO HAVE TO GIVE YOU MY TREATMENT.. OR PERHAPS YOU'D PREFER THAT YOUR FATHER AND BROTHERS BE MADE KORGA SLAVES!
NO! I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY, BUT LEAVE MY FAMILY ALONE!
MEANWHILE, IN HIS PRIVATE CONTROL ROOM, NEZORF SETS HIS TIME GAUGE FOR A YEAR EARLIER THAN HIS LEGION'S...
IN A YEAR I WILL BE ABLE TO ORGANIZE ALL DETAILS!
BUT TALA'S FIGHTING SPIRIT ISN'T ENTIRELY BROKEN..
WHY DON'T I HAVE THE COURAGE TO STAND BY MY REFUSAL?
WHILE HE SLEEPS SHALL FIND A WAY TO GET REVENGE. AND THEN PERHAPS MY FREEDOM TOO!

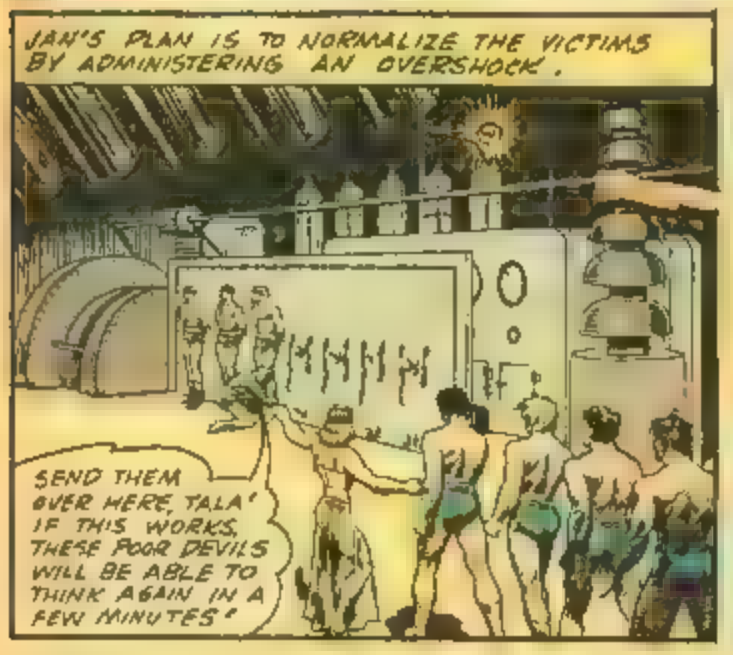
ABOUT 25 YEARS LATER..ON EARTH
I CAN'T GET OVER THE FEELING THAT MY BROTHERS DISAPPEARANCE LAST YEAR TIES UP WITH THE OTHERS IN SOME WAY!
YOU MEAN THE YOUNG MEN WHO'VE BEEN VANISHING DURING THE LAST 25 YEARS?
EXACTLY! ALL OF THEM WERE PARTICULARLY YOUNG AND HEALTHY!
RECENTLY A SCORE OR SO HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THIS WATERFRONT ATHLETIC CLUB... SO I'LL GO DOWN THERE AND PLANT MYSELF.. WHO KNOWS? MAYBE I'LL GET A LINE ON THIS!
JAN, IT'S DANGEROUS! LET ME COME WITH YOU!
NOT THIS TIME, HONEY THIS IS A SOLO JOB!
SO LONG, AND KEEP THOSE WOLVES AT BAY TILL I GET BACK!
SILLY! GOOD LUCK, JAN!
AND THEN IT HAPPENED!
BUB, YOU JUST SIGNED YOUR TICKET.. AND IT'S ONLY GOOD FOR ONE WAY!
INSIDE..
JUST CAME IN FOR A WORKOUT MISTER. HAVEN'T DONE MUCH BOXING SINCE I WAS WELTERWEIGHT CHAMP ON NEPTUNE A FEW YEARS BACK..
WELTERWEIGHT CHAMP, EH? WOULDN'T RIB ME, WOULD YOU? NO.O, I GUESS NOT YOU DO LOOK PRETTY FIT!

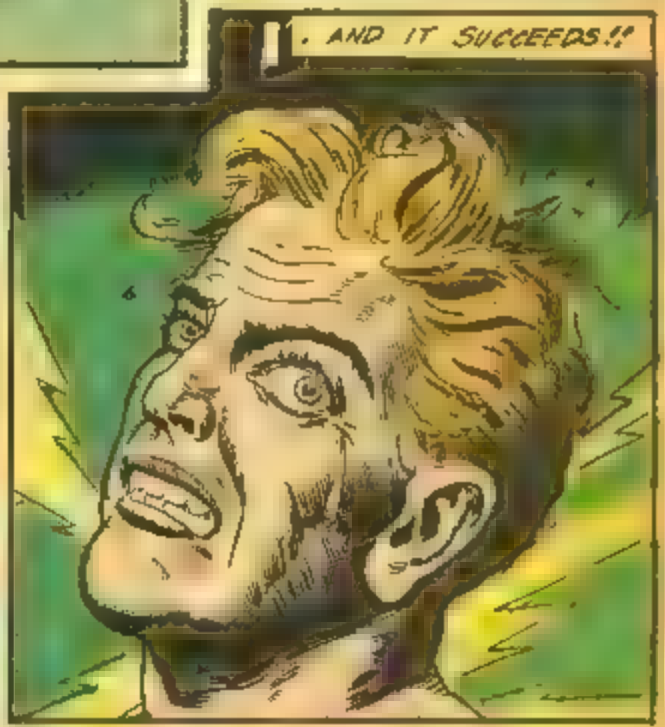

AND THE NEXT THING JAN FINDS HIMSELF, TIED HAND AND FOOT, IN A SPEEDING SPACE SHIP..
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU WOKE UP!
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE WHAT GOES ON HERE?
WE'RE TAKING YOU TO GUAR... THERE YOU'LL MEET OUR GREAT LEADER. SINCE YOU'RE LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE PICKED FOR OUR GROUP!
JUST WHAT DOES THIS GROUP OF YOURS DO?
TODAY WE OWN GUAR.. TOMORROW—ENTIRE SPACE.. BUT MIGHTY NEZORF WILL EXPLAIN THE DETAILS TO YOU. OUR OPENING ATTACK IS ONLY A MONTH AWAY, SO I DON'T THINK YOU WILL BE MADE A KORGA!
AT THAT MOMENT THE MARTIAN PLANETOID LOOMS INTO VIEW... AN ARSENAL OF RESERVE POWER!
THE SHIP DROPS DOWN TO A SMOOTH LANDING...
AND JAN IS LED BEFORE THE TYRANT.
I WANT YOU TO SERVICE ALL THE SHIPS AND THEN GET THE DISINTEGRATOR GUNS READY!
AS YOU COMMAND, NEZORF!
AH... A NEW EARTH RECRUIT! WE CAN USE YOU IN OUR LABORATORY... OTHERWISE, YOU WILL HAVE TO BE FROZEN!
YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE!


A FEW WEEKS LATER.
IF I CAN TIP OVER THIS BEAKER WITHOUT BEING SEEN, THIS PLACE WILL BLOW SPACE HIGH!
AT THAT MOMENT.
I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU, EARTHMAN! ... LEAVE US, GUARD!
HOW DID YOU KNOW WHAT I WAS PLANNING?
I HAVE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME THAT YOU CAME HERE WITH A PURPOSE. IF YOU'RE OUT TO GET NEZORF, PERHAPS I CAN HELP!
SUDDENLY A CLANGING GONG SOUNDS, AND TALA SHOUTS THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO WORK FAST.. THIS IS THE SIGNAL TO MARCH..
THEN..
JAN SEARCHES AMONG THE AUTOMATONS FOR HIS BROTHER, BUT..
BERTO, DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?
I SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOU.. HIS MIND, LIKE ALL THE OTHERS HAS BEEN DESTROYED BY ELECTRONIC SHOCK!.. THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO HARD.. HOW CAN WE HELP THEM?
I DON'T KNOW!


OVERHEAD, HUNDREDS OF SPACE SHIPS ROAR OUT ON THEIR MISSION OF DESTRUCTION. . .


BUT..
WAIT A MINUTE.. DID YOU SAY ELECTRONIC SHOCK? THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA! QUICK. . ROUND UP THE KORDAS THAT ARE STILL HERE AND LEAD THEM BACK TO THE LAB. I'LL GET THE MACHINE READY"


JAN'S PLAN IS TO NORMALIZE THE VICTIMS BY ADMINISTERING AN OVERSHOCK.
SEND THEM OVER HERE, TALA! IF THIS WORKS, THESE POOR DEVILS WILL BE ABLE TO THINK AGAIN IN A FEW MINUTES!


. AND IT SUCCEEDS!!

MEANWHILE, AN ATTACK ON THE EARTH OUTPOSTS OF THE MOON HAS BEGUN...

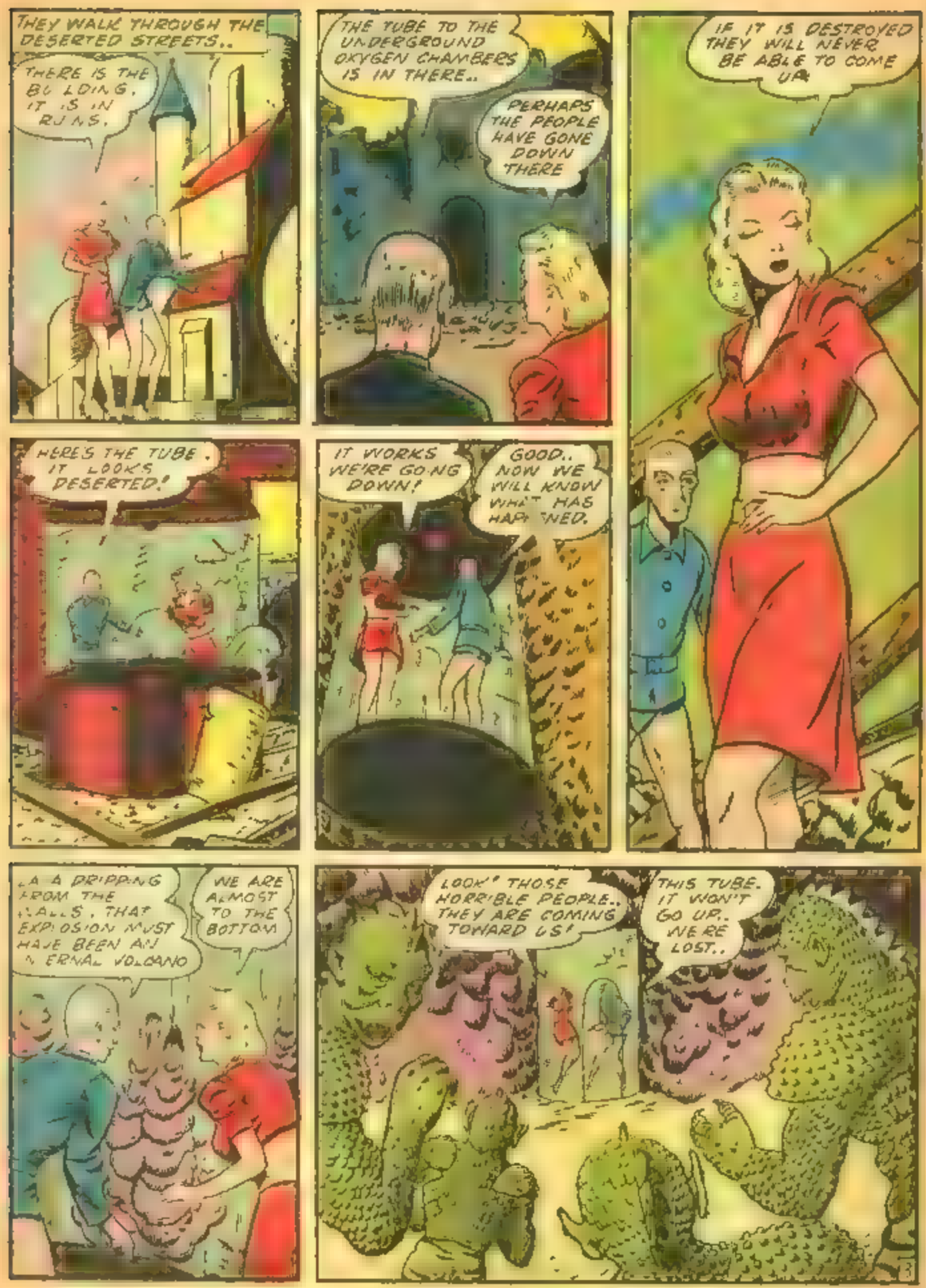
THE DISINTEGRATOR GUNS BLAST CONTINUOUSLY...

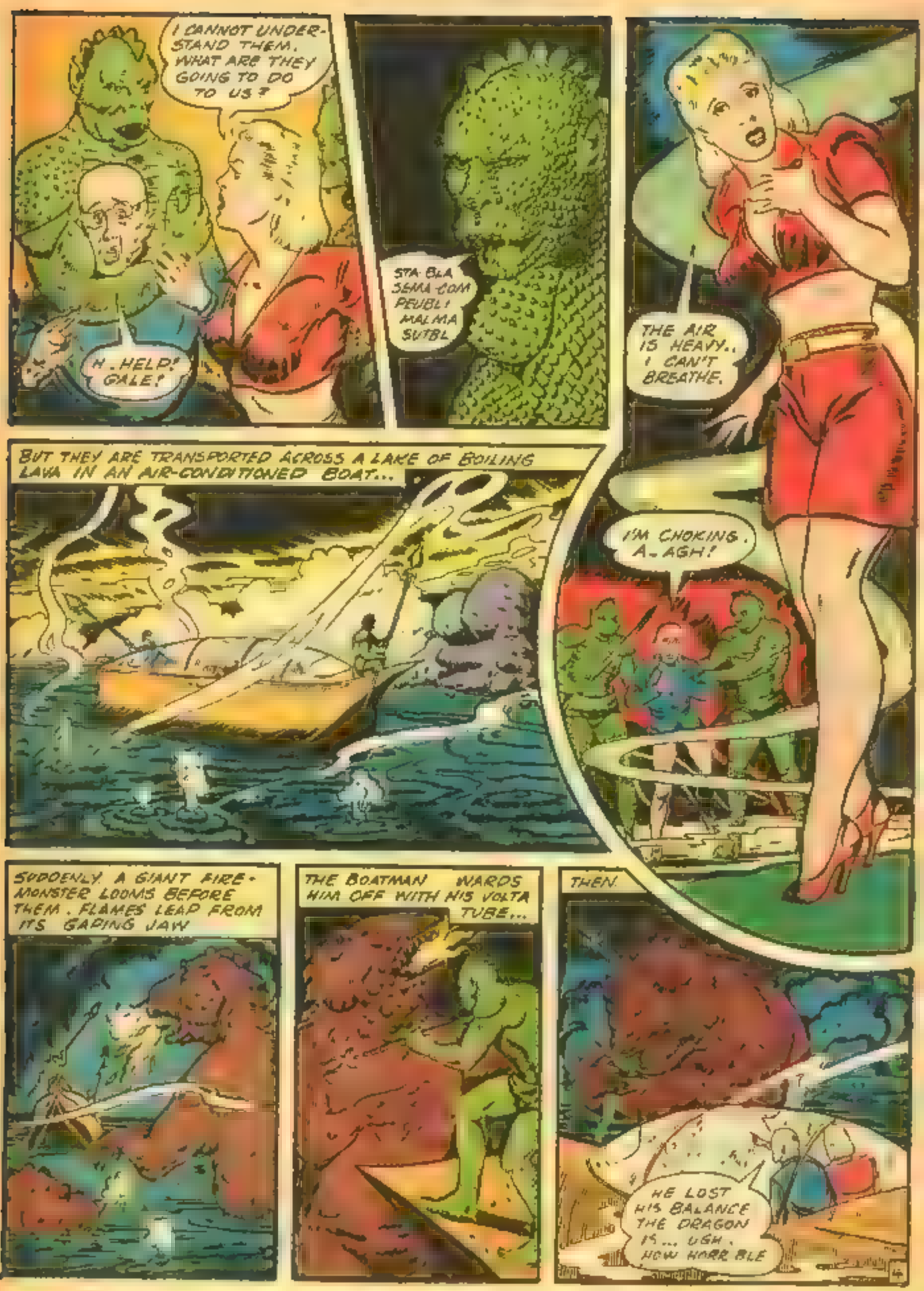
AND IT IS A ONE-SIDED BATTLE UNTIL...

AND TO A LEADING A FLEET MANNED BY RESTORED KORDAS ZOOM IN TO ATTACK!
THERE'S NEZORF'S SHIP!
THEY CLOSE IN ON THE TYRANT
AND HIS ROBOT FOLLOWERS
AS REASON BATTLES FRENZIED, MARS-INSPIRED HATE.
KEEP ABOVE THEM, FOOL!
EVEN WITH MARS' EXPERIENCED GUIDANCE, NEZORF IS LOSING..
SUDDENLY A DIRECT HIT SENDS THE DESPOT PLUMMETING TO A FIERY DEATH
AT LAST MY PEOPLE SHALL KNOW FREEDOM WE SHALL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO YOU!
NOW TO RETURN AND CURE MY BROTHER!
WHY MUST ALL MY SCHEMES BE SPOILED AT THE LAST MOMENT!- BUT I SHALL NEVER GIVE UP!
THE THIN THREAD OF REASON PREVENTS IMPENDING DOOM FROM CRASHING ON THE UNIVERSE. BUT MARS GOD OF WAR LURKS WITH CLUTCHED BLADE READY TO SLASH THAT TINY STRAND IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS!

GALE ALLEN
AND THE GIRL SQUADRON
by Douglas McKee
THE NIZAM OF VANAM SUMMONS GALE AND DIMA HEAD OF THE SPACE CARGO SHIPS, TO HIS PALACE
OUR SHIPS HAVE NOT RETURNED FROM VUUR.. NOR HAS ANY WORD BEEN RECEIVED. THIS IS SERIOUS..
I BID YOU, DIMA, GO TO VUUR.. IT IS YOUR DUTY TO INVESTIGATE GALE WILL.. TAKE YOU
I AM READY, SIR.
VUUR OH NO. NOT THERE
AS THEY LEAVE THEIR BASE..
VUUR IS A TREACHEROUS COUNTRY.. WE WILL NEVER RETURN ALIVE!

WE MUST BE NEAR THE TEMPERATURE IS RISING.. AND THERE ARE THICK CLOUDS OF GAS.
THE SHIP SUDDENLY LEAPS OUT OF GALE'S CONTROL..
WE'RE AFIRE... QUICK! PUT ON THIS VITA SUIT.
WE WILL BE KILLED. I KNEW IT. OHH!
THEY FLOAT GENTLY TO SAFETY IN THEIR INFLATED VITA SUITS...
VULU BARREN, EXCEPT FOR ITS GIGANTIC HYDROCEAN INDUSTRY LIES STILL AND GHOSTLIKE...
IT IS DESERTED.. NO ONE ABOUT.
SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED.
THEN.. THE SILENCE IS BROKEN BY A DEAFENING EXPLOSION...
WHA WHAT IS THAT?
LOOK.. THAT BUILDING


THEY WALK THROUGH THE DESERTED STREETS..
THERE IS THE BU LDING. IT IS IN RU NS.
THE TUBE TO THE UNDERGROUND OXYGEN CHAMBERS IS IN THERE..
PERHAPS THE PEOPLE HAVE GONE DOWN THERE
IF IT IS DESTROYED THEY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO COME UP.
HERE'S THE TUBE. IT LOOKS DESERTED!
IT WORKS WE'RE GO NG DOWN!
GOOD.. NOW WE WILL KNOW WHAT HAS HAP NED.
A A DRIPPING FROM THE WALLS. THAT EXP OSION MUST HAVE BEEN AN ERNAL VOLCANO
WE ARE ALMOST TO THE BOTTOM
LOOK! THOSE HORRIBLE PEOPLE.. THEY ARE COMING TOWARD US!
THIS TUBE. IT WON'T GO UP.. WE'RE LOST..
3


I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THEM. WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO TO US?
H. HELP! GALE!
STA BLA SEMA COM PEUBL! MALMA SUTBL
THE AIR IS HEAVY.. I CAN'T BREATHE.
I'M CHOKING. A-AGH!
BUT THEY ARE TRANSPORTED ACROSS A LAKE OF BOILING LAVA IN AN AIR-CONDITIONED BOAT...
SUDDENLY A GIANT FIRE-MONSTER LOOMS BEFORE THEM. FLAMES LEAP FROM ITS GAPING JAW
THE BOATMAN WARDS HIM OFF WITH HIS VOLTA TUBE...
THEN
HE LOST HIS BALANCE THE DRAGON IS... UGH. HOW HORRIBLE

LANDING ON AN UNDER-GROUND ISLAND, THEY SEE OTHER ARMADILLO-LIKE PEOPLE COMING TOWARD THEM.
DIMA ATTEMPTS TO ESCAPE.
. BUT HE IS QUICKLY CAP-TURED AND TAKEN INTO THE DARK CAVE.
EEEE LET ME GO!
IN A VAST HALL
OUR PEOPLE IN THOSE TUBES! AND ONE OF THEIR MEN.. HIS SKIN IS ALMOST WHITE.. THEY ARE PUTTING POOR DIMA IN ONE... WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
FEEBLY, A VENUSIAN TRIES TO TALK
AN INTERNAL VOLCANO UNEARTHED THESE PEOPLE. THEY NOW WANT TO CONQUER THE OUTER WORLD AND TRY TO MAKE THEMSELVES LIKE US. THEY ARE EXPERIMENTING. IF THEY SUCCEED
UTTERING HORRIBLE SOUNDS A CREATURE TURNS ON EALE...
OH! HE IS COMING. WHAT WILL I DO?
BUT HE IS SILENCED...
NEARBY, THE DRAGON, HIS HUNGER UNSATED LUNGES ON TO THE BANK.
5

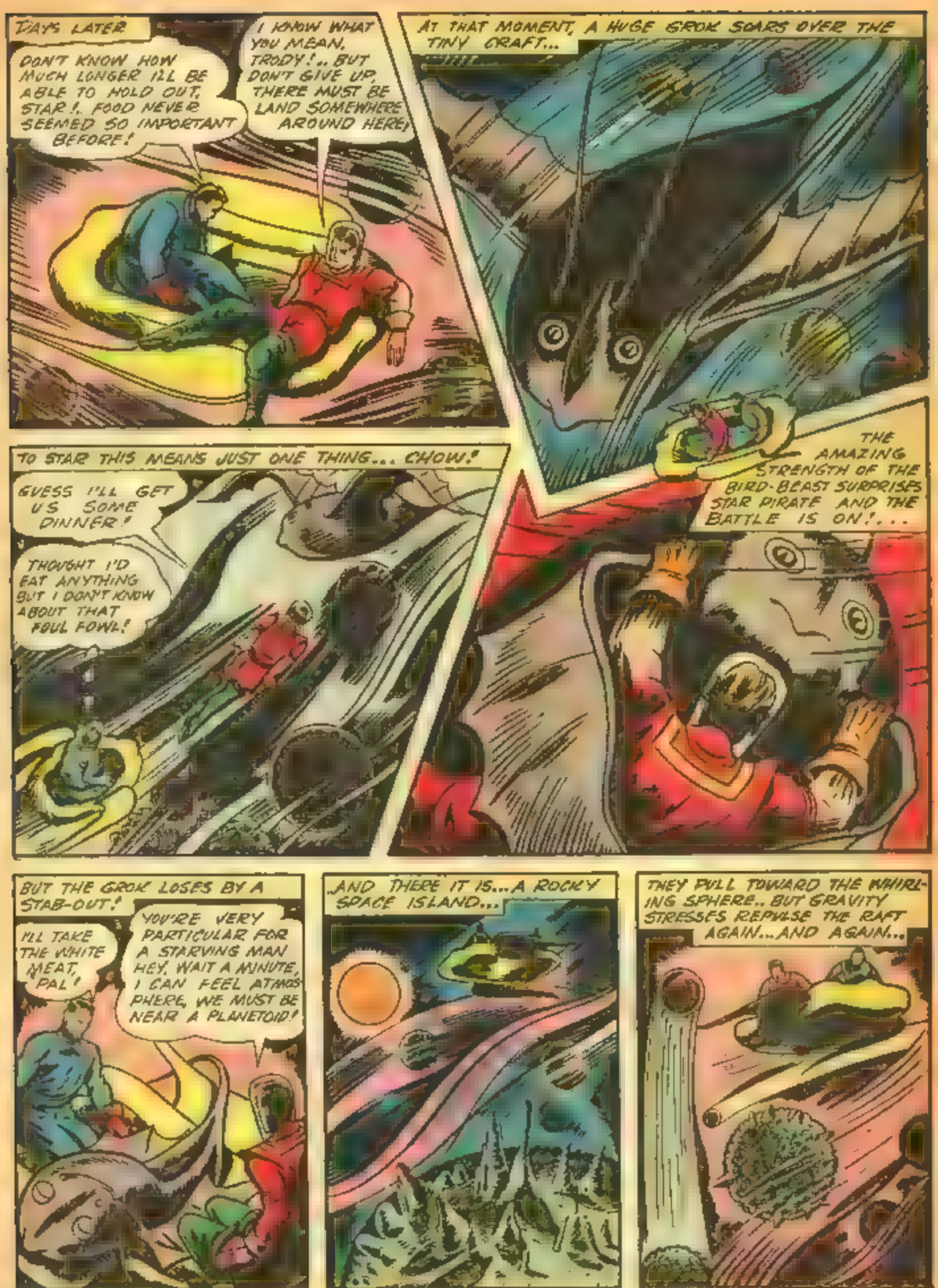
HE'S GOING TO PUT ME IN A TESTING TUBE...TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME USH!
BUT AT THAT INSTANT A THUNDEROUS ROAR IS HEARD...
GALE ACTS QUICKLY..
PARDON, UNATTRACTIVE, BUT I'LL TAKE THE DRAGON!
AAK!
WITH A VOLTA TURE SHE FORCES THEM INTO THE DRAGON'S PATH.
NOW IS MY CHANCE TO FREE OUR MEN.
THE DRAGON FEASTS ON THE DEFENSELESS ARMADILLO MEN
QUICKLY, DIMA HELP ME OPEN THE OTHER TUBES BEFORE THE DRAGON GETS US!
THE VENUSIANS JOYOUSLY LEAVE THE CAVERN OF HORRORS, HAILING GALE AS THEIR SAVIOUR.
AND DIMA MODESTLY SHARES THE PLAUDITS.
REALLY IT WAS NOTHING..I DID ONLY WHAT ANY RED-BLOODED MAN OF ACTION WOULD HAVE DONE!
ANOTHER OF GALE ALLEN'S PERILOUS ADVENTURES WILL APPEAR IN NEXT
PLANET COMICS!

Star Pirate

By George Vincent

AS THE VENGEANCE CRUISES THE SPACE-WAYS STAR NOTICES A QUEER RADIATION SURROUNDING THEM
SUDDENLY, THE FULL FURY OF A SPACE STORM IS UNLEASHED UPON THE SMALL CRAFT...

WELL TROD, LOOKS AS IF WE'RE IN FOR IT THIS TIME! IT IS GOING TO BE A HONEY OF A STORM!
THE VENGEANCE ATTEMPTS TO SKIRT A TWISTING SPACE WHIRLWIND, BUT UNSUCCESSFULLY..
AROUND AND ROUND THEY GO, AS THE SHIP IS SUCKED INTO THE SWIRLING CENTER
THEN, WITH JOLTING SUDDENNESS, THEY ARE THROWN CLEAR. BUT THE MOTOR IS DEAD!
JUST IN TIME, STAR PIRATE LAUNCHES THE LIFE RAFT AND THE SPACE PALS ARE CAST ADRIFT IN THE RAGING VOID!
A SUDDEN SURGING CATAPULTS TROD FROM THE RAFT..
BUT STAR WHIPS OFF HIS BELT...
HERE PAL, GRAB HOLD AND I'LL REEL YOU IN!
2


DAYS LATER
DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I'LL BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT, STAR!.. FOOD NEVER SEEMED SO IMPORTANT BEFORE!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, TRODY!.. BUT DON'T GIVE UP, THERE MUST BE LAND SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE!
AT THAT MOMENT, A HUGE GROK SOARS OVER THE TINY CRAFT...
TO STAR THIS MEANS JUST ONE THING... CHOW!
GUESS I'LL GET US SOME DINNER!
THOUGHT I'D EAT ANYTHING BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT FOUL FOWL!
THE AMAZING STRENGTH OF THE BIRD-BEAST SURPRISES STAR PIRATE AND THE BATTLE IS ON!...
BUT THE GROK LOSES BY A STAB-OUT!
I'LL TAKE THE WHITE MEAT, PAL!
YOU'RE VERY PARTICULAR FOR A STARVING MAN HEY, WAIT A MINUTE, I CAN FEEL ATMOSPHERE, WE MUST BE NEAR A PLANETOID!
AND THERE IT IS...A ROCKY SPACE ISLAND...
THEY PULL TOWARD THE WHIRLING SPHERE.. BUT GRAVITY STRESSES REPULSE THE RAFT AGAIN...AND AGAIN...

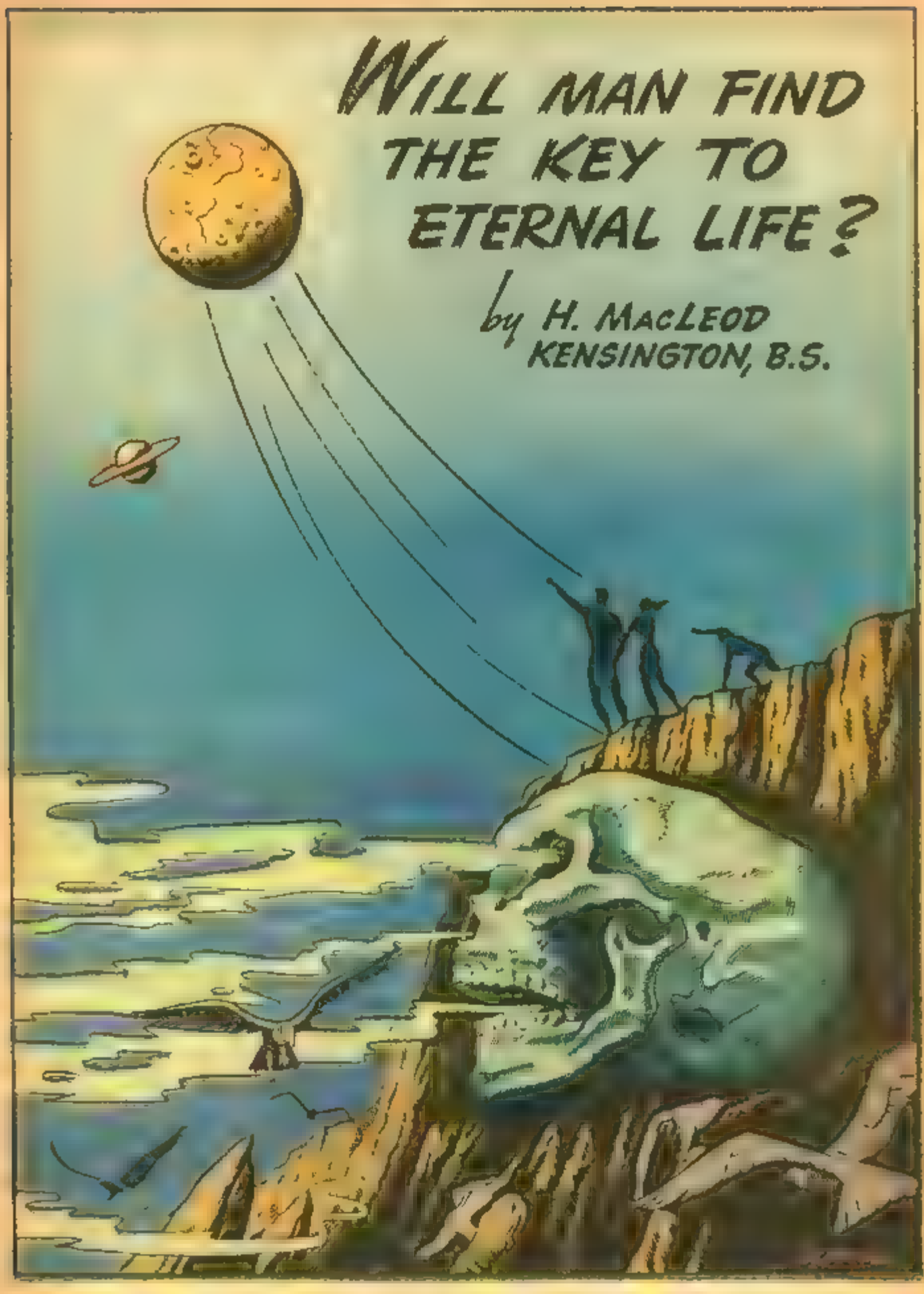
FINALLY THEY ARE ABLE TO MAKE A LANDING IN WHAT SEEMS TO BE UNINHABITED TERRITORY..
BUT, STRANGE EYES WATCH THEM
DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY SORT OF LIFE AROUND!
GUESS WE MIGHT AS WELL BUILD A CAMP IN THIS CLEARING, AND BUNK DOWN FOR THE NIGHT!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE HERE TO STAY, EH?
WITH GATHERED BRANCHES, TRODY AND STAR START A SHACK..
SUDDENLY
DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE? IF THAT'S NOT THE VENGEANCE, I'LL EAT IT JUST DRIFTING ALONG TOO!
LET'S GET AFTER IT!
HEAVY CURRENTS ARE AGAINST THEM...
NOW IT'S BEING CARRIED THE OTHER WAY!
HOWEVER STAR KEEPS BATTLING THE POUNDING STRESS-WAVES.
I THINK WE'RE GAINING ON IT, TRODY!
4

WITH ONE QUICK LEAP THE SPACE PIRATE HAS CAUGHT HIS SHIP AND GUIDES HER IN.
I WONDER HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE TO REPAIR THIS MOTOR?
GOOD OLD BABY! I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A BIG KISS FOR FINDING THE WAY HOME!
ENOUGH OF THIS LOVE MAKING TRODY. ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND GET BUSY ON THIS MOTOR!
HOURS LATER THEY ARE STILL AT IT..
LOOK THERE'S NO SENSE KILLING OURSELVES! THE JOBS ALMOST DONE NOW ABOUT A LITTLE SHUT-EYE?
RIGHT! THEN WE'LL POLISH HER OFF IN THE MORNING!
AND SO TO BED. BUT.
THE WILD CREATURE SEEMS BENT ON DESTRUCTION AFTER SLUGGING THE TWO PALS HE MAKES FOR THEIR SHIP.
IT'S A GOOD THING THAT GUY'S AIM WAS BAD OR I WOULD HAVE MISSED THIS TOUCHING SCENE!
LEAVE ALONE.. I KILL YOU!
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?

THE GHOUL ANSWERS WITH HIS FISTS..
BUT STAR PIRATE KNOWS THAT LANGUAGE TOO..
O.K. IF YOU WANT TO PLAY.
TRODY YOU WOKE UP JUST IN TIME! TIE THIS GUY UP WHILE I CHECK ON THE SHIP'S DAMAGE!
RIGHT!
HEY FELLA, COME HERE! .. THAT SON-OF-A-GUN TOOK OUR RADIO ACTIVATOR!
AND IN THE EXCITEMENT, TRODY LEAVES HIS TYING JOB UNDONE.
YOU NEVER CATCH ME! HA' HA! YOU STAY HERE ALL TIME!
THE PIRATE AND TRODY START AFTER HIM BUT THE FOREST DEEPENS SUDDENLY...
OH! OH! I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN! HE WAS IN PLAIN SIGHT A MINUTE AGO... NOW HE'S THE LITTLE MAN WHO ISN'T HERE!
I DON'T SEE HOW WE COULD HAVE LOST HIM!
HE'S NOT THE ONLY THING WE LOST.. I DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO TO GET BACK TO OUR SHIP!

HOURS LATER, THEY ARE STILL WANDERING, WHEN..
OW! WHAT HIT ME!
STAR WHIRLS AROUND.. BUT..
STAND STILL!
WELL, OUR DESTRUCTIVE FRIEND WANTS TO PLAY ROUGH NOW! LETS TEACH HIM IT'S AGAINST THE RULES TO HIT A GUY WHEN HIS BACK'S TURNED!
TRODY. WE'LL HAVE TO BE CAGEY HERE! THAT GUY MUST HAVE THE ACTIVATOR. SO WE'LL GET HIM TO LEAD US BACK TO THE SHIP!
YOU NEVER LEAVE HERE!
TWENTY YEARS AGO, ME BANISHED TO THIS ISLAND FROM VENUS FOR SMUGGLING ZEVA WEED INTO THE PLANET. ALMOST FORGOT HOW TO TALK NOW... YOU STAY AND BE MY SLAVES....
HE WALKS CLOSER TO COMPLETE HIS CAPTURE.. BUT TRODY STILL HAS ONE GOOD LEG
NICE WORK PAL! DROP THAT SPEAR
AFTER TYING HIS HANDS, STAR FORCES THE HERMIT TO HELP CARRY TRODY BACK TO THE VENGEANCE
ONCE BACK AT THEIR BASE, STAR TALKS FAST..
WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE ACTIVATOR? IF YOU GIVE US THAT WE'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO CIVILIZATION!
NO! YOU STAY HERE!

LOOK, WE'VE WASTED TOO MUCH TIME ON YOU ALREADY! ...EITHER YOU GIVE ME THAT ACTIVATOR OR I'LL HAVE TO USE MY RAY-GUN!
NO.. I TELL! IT IS HIDDEN IN FOREST NEAR SWAMP.. I'LL TAKE YOU THERE!
YOU STAY HERE, TRODY AND TAKE CARE OF THAT LEG!.. I'LL FOLLOW THIS NUT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS. WE'VE GOT TO HAVE THAT ACTIVATOR, OR WE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF HERE!
BE CAREFUL, IT MIGHT BE A TRICK!
AND, AS THEY NEAR THE SWAMP, THE HERMIT ATTEMPTS ANOTHER ESCAPE..
YOU NEVER GET MACHINE!
ALL RIGHT... YOU ASKED FOR IT!
HE DIVES BEHIND A BUSH AND GRABS THE ACTIVATOR
THEN TRIES TO HURL IT INTO THE SWAMP. BUT INSTEAD LOSES HIS FOOTING..
STAR CATCHES THE BOX BUT CANNOT REACH THE MAN'S HAND...
LATER
SO I HAD TO WATCH HIM DIE, WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO DO A THING ABOUT IT!
WELL, YOU TRIED ANYWAY, AND HE NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY GONE AGAIN!
AS THEY NEAR HOME..
I WAS JUST GOING TO SAY IT'S NICE TO BE BACK WHEN I NOTICED THOSE SPACE PATROL SHIPS! EVEN HOME HAS ITS DRAWBACKS, DOESN'T IT!
ANOTHER THRILL-PACKED ADVENTURE WITH DANGER APLENTY LIES IN WAIT FOR STAR PIRATE AND TRODY IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!


WILL MAN FIND THE KEY TO ETERNAL LIFE?
by H. MACLEOD KENSINGTON, B.S.

For countless centuries, man has been seeking a means of prolonging human life. Few possibilities have been overlooked, and to this day the useless quest continues in every corner of the globe.

But the world's scientific minds were startled recently by the news that the secret of eternal life may be unfolded within a short time.

The announcement was made by Dr. Wilmot S. Drummond, noted astronomer of the Britannica Institute, before the annual meeting of the International Society For The Advancement Of Cosmic Research, held in London during the first week of July.

Dr. Drummond gave detailed evidence that on many planets conditions are more favorable for human existence than those on Earth. According to Dr. Drummond's theory, it may be possible to locate the ideal environment for man. This would be a world free from disease, natural disasters and all other causes of human attrition and death.

The theory is supported by sound mathematical calculations and spectroscopic photographs. Upon examination of Dr. Drummond's evidence, a number of scientists who at first expressed firm doubts, agreed that the results of his research cannot be challenged.

Public opinion, however, is skeptical. The average man will take little stock in the Drummond report until an expedition goes forth from Earth and returns with concrete evidence that some other planet is a better place on which to live.

Undoubtedly experimental space ships needed for such a gigantic expedition will be planned before many years have passed. All, of course, under the customary secrecy of research. And imagine, if you will, the effect such startling news that a better world to live on had been discovered in the unlimitless void, and that means of reaching that fountain of youth were ready to leave, would have on a slumbering humanity!

What primary conditions will the explorers search for on their tour of the planets? Mainly they will be content to find an environment better suited to human habitation; a world where the life span of man may be increased tenfold, or even greater! A land where a grandfather of seventy will bear more resemblance in body and spirit to a youth of seventeen!

Calculating Earth's manifold dangers and burdens to living

flesh, the searchers will look for advantages inconceivable to man's wildest dreams. One element in favor of human longevity to be found on many planets is light atmospheric pressure. On Earth, the air presses down on each of us with the weight of twenty pounds to the square inch at sea level. Thus people dwelling in mountainous regions where the pressure is somewhat lighter, enjoy longer lives. How much better they would fare on a planet where atmospheric weight is scarcely more than a *pound* to the square inch!

Spectroscopic examination through high powered telescopes gives proof that lighter atmospheres are found on other planets, and it will be towards these unknown worlds that the first space ships set their courses.

Thundering through space in powerful rocket ships, these Twentieth Century Ponce de Leons will keep sharp eyes on their meteorological instruments, for climate will be of primary importance.

Earth's frigid winters, torrid summers and rainy seasons constantly tax our endurance. There are, naturally, more or less ideal climactic conditions on this globe, places such as Miami, Florida, and the French Riviera. Unfortunately, however, the Earth's teeming billions could not be crammed into these small spaces. But on other planets in the universe, the weather may be ideal all year round, and this will be the goal of our first space crusaders.

Food and water of superior purity and nourishment will doubtless be found on distant spheres. Earth's food products contain large proportions of waste in the form of water and roughage. The caloric values of our fruits and vegetables are so low that we must supplement our diets with energy-producing proteins and sugars. From our everyday foods we cannot derive sufficient quantities of health-giving vitamins and minerals. And let's not forget that on Earth, most foods are indigestible in their natural form, and require cooking or processing before they can be eaten.

Millions die every year from causes that can be traced to overeating or improper diet. On other planets these same millions might otherwise be alive, enjoying delicious, health-giving foods unheard of on Earth.

As humanity emigrates from Earth to the lands of longer life, physicians and surgeons will find their practice limited to accident cases. Disease and other human ills will be unknown on these new worlds, and the medical profes-

sion will be entrusted with the job of *preventing*, rather than *curing* illness. Man will leave behind on Earth the vast armies of microbes, parasites and insects. And to prevent transfer of these enemy germs to the new worlds, human beings will be rigidly inspected and quarantined. None but those with a clean bill of health will be allowed to enter.

Freedom from worry may rank as of as great benefit as freedom from disease. Death is inescapable on Earth, whether from floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, or other terrifying rampages of the elements. But when man's minds are no longer plagued by constant fear of death, that fear, as an emotion, may completely disappear. For once the natural causes of fear are removed, human beings will progress from childhood without knowing the meaning of the word.

In Dr. Drummond's report it was noted that he believed eternal life could be obtained in the proper environment. This would not mean that a full grown man, having subsisted on Earth's improper foods and having fought to build an immunity to Earth's diseases, could expect to live much beyond one hundred years on this better world. But it does mean this: that if he did reach the century mark, his children might expect a lifespan exceeding one hundred and fifty years!

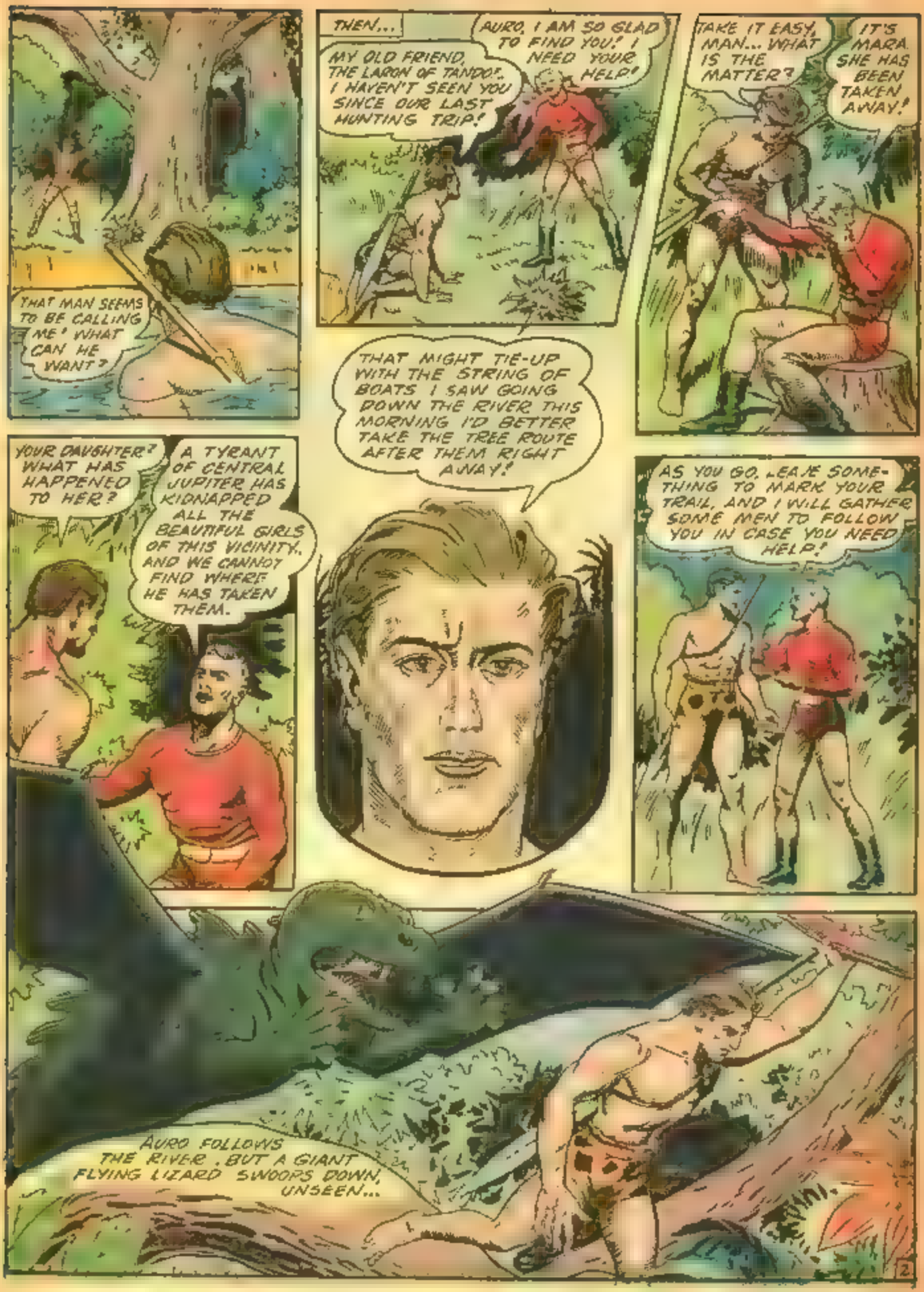
With lifespans progressively longer in each generation, we can assume that human resistance would at length become immune to death. Our bodies are actually physical machines. Unlike engines of steel and brass, the human body maintains its own repair shop. Thus it would be possible for the useful operation of the human body to continue century upon century. For age, as we know it on Earth, is actually a disease that causes the tissues and organs of the body to deteriorate. When the disease is eliminated, man will never grow old and feeble, but will enjoy continuous health and youthfulness.

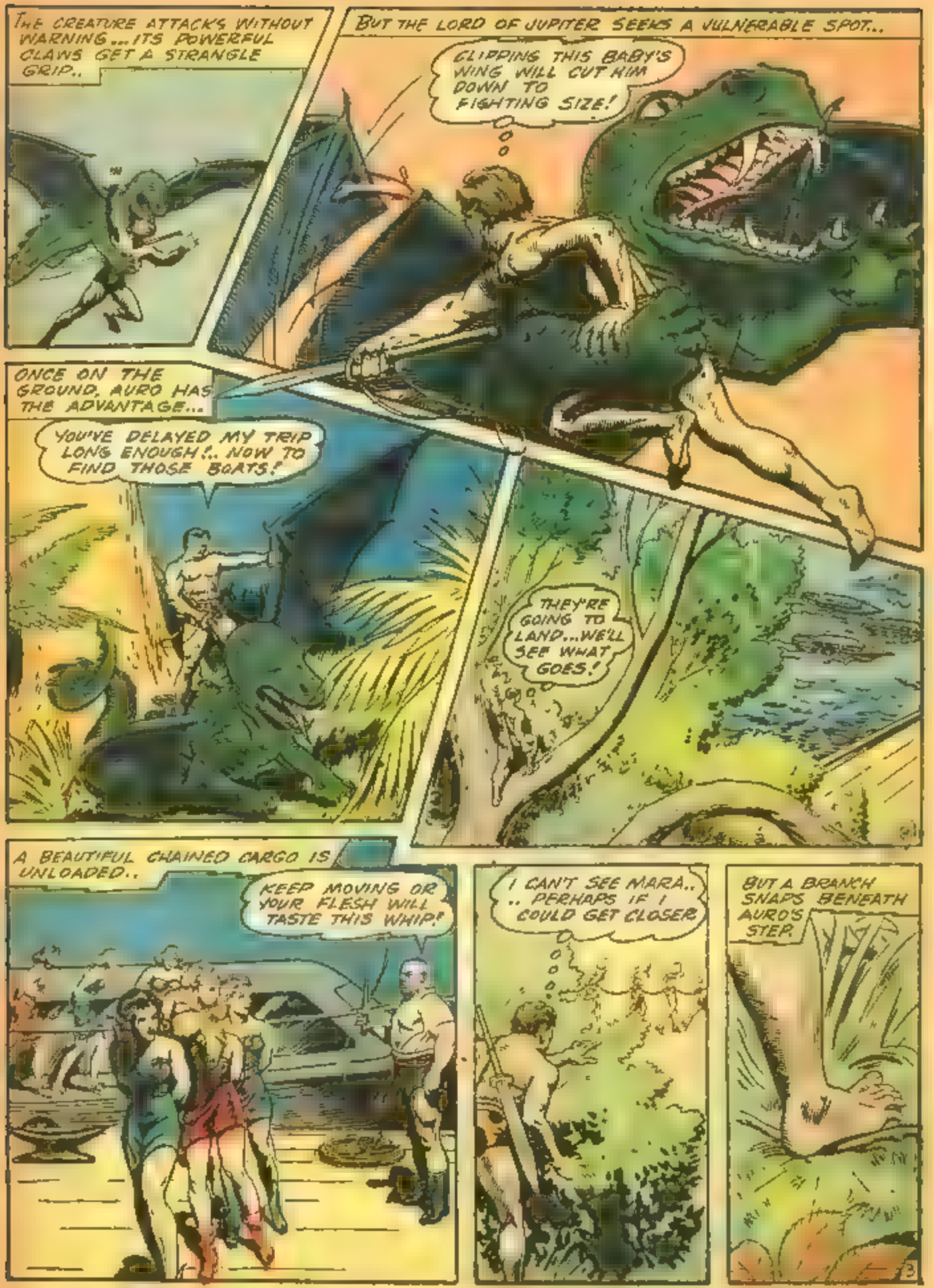
Obviously, though, mankind would not be able to reap the full benefits of this new world unless colonization is controlled by a far better type government and economy than now practiced on Earth. Corrupt politics and crime must never be allowed to exist. Neither extremes of poverty or wealth could be tolerated, and no man should live by the sweat of another or be a drone dependent upon society. Contributions will replace taxes for the support of the commonwealth, every man willingly paying his share. In fact, all the multiple evils of Earth should cease to be known to mankind when we move to the worlds of the future.

How soon Dr. Drummond's predictions will be fulfilled no one knows. But we can rest assured on one thing, and that is that Earth's most diligent scientists will someday find the answer to this most vital problem. The day for migration to other and better planets may not be so far distant in the future. Perhaps then man will find the key to eternal life!

Another Thrilling FUTURE-FACT
Feature In The Next Issue Of
PLANET COMICS!

AURO
LORD of JU
by
DICK
CHARLES
ONE MORNING AS AURO TAKES HIS DAILY SWIM IN A SWIFT RUNNING JUPITERIAN STREAM
HE NOTICES, FAR IN THE DISTANCE A PROCESSION OF SMALL BOATS.
I WONDER WHO COULD BE TRAVELING IN SUCH A GROUP!


THAT MAN SEEMS TO BE CALLING ME! WHAT CAN HE WANT?
THEN...
MY OLD FRIEND, THE LARON OF TANDO!.. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE OUR LAST HUNTING TRIP!
AURO, I AM SO GLAD TO FIND YOU! I NEED YOUR HELP!
TAKE IT EASY, MAN... WHAT IS THE MATTER?
IT'S MARA SHE HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY!
THAT MIGHT TIE-UP WITH THE STRING OF BOATS I SAW GOING DOWN THE RIVER THIS MORNING I'D BETTER TAKE THE TREE ROUTE AFTER THEM RIGHT AWAY!
YOUR DAUGHTER? WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HER?
A TYRANT OF CENTRAL JUPITER HAS KIDNAPPED ALL THE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS OF THIS VICINITY. AND WE CANNOT FIND WHERE HE HAS TAKEN THEM.
AS YOU GO, LEAVE SOMETHING TO MARK YOUR TRAIL, AND I WILL GATHER SOME MEN TO FOLLOW YOU IN CASE YOU NEED HELP!
AURO FOLLOWS THE RIVER. BUT A GIANT FLYING LIZARD SWOOPS DOWN, UNSEEN...
2


THE CREATURE ATTACKS WITHOUT WARNING...ITS POWERFUL CLAWS GET A STRANGLE GRIP..
BUT THE LORD OF JUPITER SEEKS A VULNERABLE SPOT..
CLIPPING THIS BABY'S WING WILL CUT HIM DOWN TO FIGHTING SIZE!
ONCE ON THE GROUND, AURO HAS THE ADVANTAGE...
YOU'VE DELAYED MY TRIP LONG ENOUGH!.. NOW TO FIND THOSE BOATS!
THEY'RE GOING TO LAND...WE'LL SEE WHAT GOES!
A BEAUTIFUL CHAINED CARGO IS UNLOADED..
KEEP MOVING OR YOUR FLESH WILL TASTE THIS WHIP!
I CAN'T SEE MARA.. .. PERHAPS IF I COULD GET CLOSER
BUT A BRANCH SNAPS BENEATH AURO'S STEP.
3

THEN
SOMEONE SPIES ON US'. CAPTURE HIM AND BRING HIM HERE!
AURO HITS THE ROAD BUT IRAFA'S BLOODHOUNDS ARE CLOSE BEHIND HIM...
AND HE IS CAUGHT
NOW, FALL IN LINE WITH THOSE WOMEN!
RECOGNIZING THE GIRL IN FRONT OF HIM AURO SPEAKS TO HER... AND WHEN SHE TRIES TO ANSWER LASHES ARE HER REWARD.
AREN'T YOU MARA THE DAUGHTER OF THE LARON OF TANDO?.. I AM AURO' YOUR FATHER SENT ME TO HELP YOU'
YES, I REMEMBER YOU' I OH..
A FEW MINUTES LATER THEY ENTER A BEAUTIFUL HIDDEN CITY BUILT UPON SHIMMERING CANALS
AND INTO THE MAGNIFICENT THRONE ROOM OF THE JEWELED CASTLE OF OPIR IRAFA
NOTICE MEN OF MY COUNCIL THE BEAUTIES I HAVE PICKED TO ADORN MY COURT' WE MUST CELEBRATE MY GOOD FORTUNE WITH A FESTIVAL
YOU HAVE CHOSEN WELL MIGHTY RAFA'
TONIGHT, SHALL TAKE YOU FOR MY WIFE... THE PROUD DAUGHTER OF THE TANDIAN LARON!
4

OUTSIDE THE WOMEN'S QUARTERS, A CHAINED AURO IS BEATEN INTO TURNING THE GIANT WATER WHEEL.
BUT EVERY TIME THE GUARD TURNS HIS BACK
THIS SHOULD WEAKEN THE CHAIN!
THEN
AURO, ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO? I SHALL BE FORCED TO MARRY IRAFA TONIGHT!
KEEP YOUR CHIN UP, MARA!
I HAVE A PLAN, BE READY TO ESCAPE WITH ME WITHIN A FEW HOURS...AND KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED!
BEFORE HE CAN [illegible]Y MORE, THE SLAVES ARE WHIPPED BACK TO THE DUNGEON..
IF HE NOTICES THIS CHAIN, I'M FINISHED!
LUCK IS WITH AURO..
HE VAULTS OVER THE WALL..
WELL, FANCY SEEING YOU HERE, BUD!
SURPRISE AND AURO'S QUICK FIST TAKE CARE OF ONE OBSTACLE...
5

TAKING HIS SHINING TAGLON FOR GOOD LUCK, AURO MAKES FOR MARA'S QUARTERS..
AND SHE IS READY AS PLANNED..
THE TREE EXPRESS RIDES AGAIN... THIS TIME WITH EXCESS BAGGAGE..
BUT IRAFA IS CLOSE BEHIND..
COME ON, MEN. THIS FOREST STOPS SOON. THEN THEY'LL HAVE TO COME DOWN!
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE LINE, MARA!
YES, WE CAN'T MAKE MUCH TIME ON THAT DESERT!
IRAFA ATTACKS..
IT'S YOU OR ME, BIG SHOT.. AND I GUESS IT'S YOU!
HEY, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
LOOK, HERE COMES A GANG OF MEN!
The End

NORGE BENSON

By OLAF BJORN

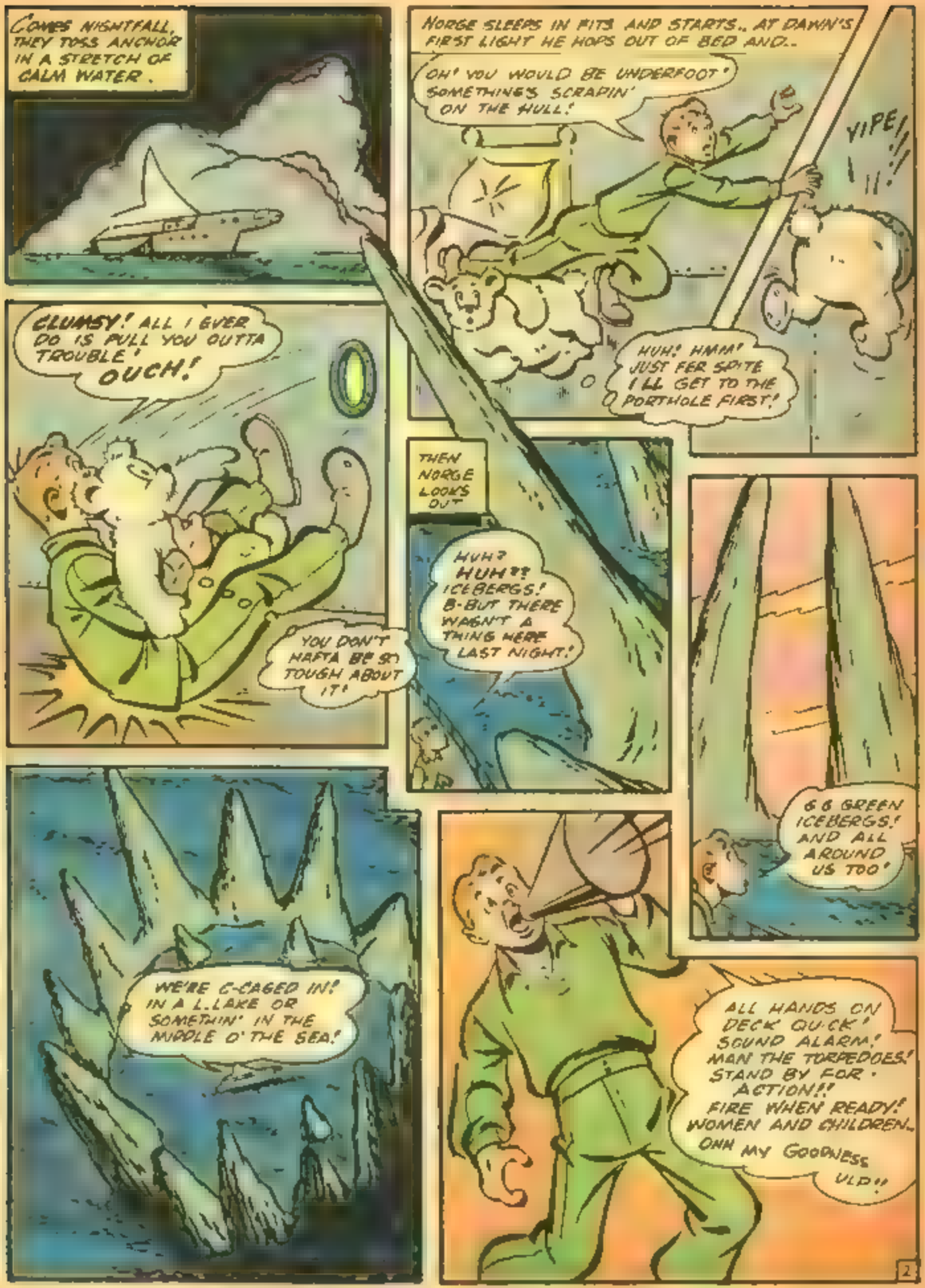
NORGE MEETS AN OLD SEA CAPTAIN WHO SHOWS HIM AN ANCIENT GLOBE ON WHICH IS MARKED IN BLOOD THE LOCATION OF A LOST PLANET!

YEP, SON! THAR SHE IS! CARE YE T'COME ALONG AS A MEMBER O' MY CREW?

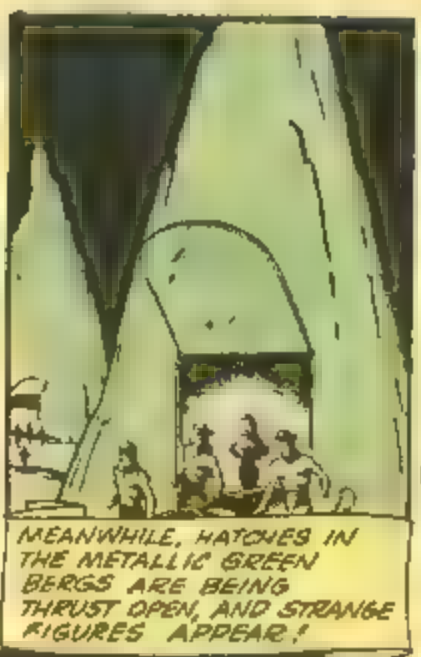
YOU'RE GONNA FIND THE LOST PLANET? OH GEE! GOSH! SURE!

SOON NORGE AND HIS PALS CROWD THE DECKS OF THE AMPHIBIAN "SPACE SHIP" ASTRID Q'... ADVENTURE BOUND!

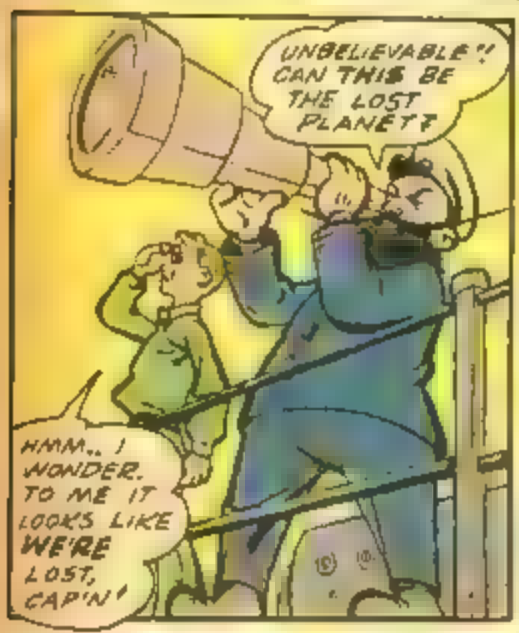
SILHOUETTED IN A BRILLIANT PLUTO SUN, THE ASTRID Q. SAILS INTO MYSTERY, HER COMPASS SET FOR THE ASTERIC SEA WHERE ICEBERGS REAR DEADLY PINNACLES... WHERE WHALES ARE BIG AS BATTLESHIPS...

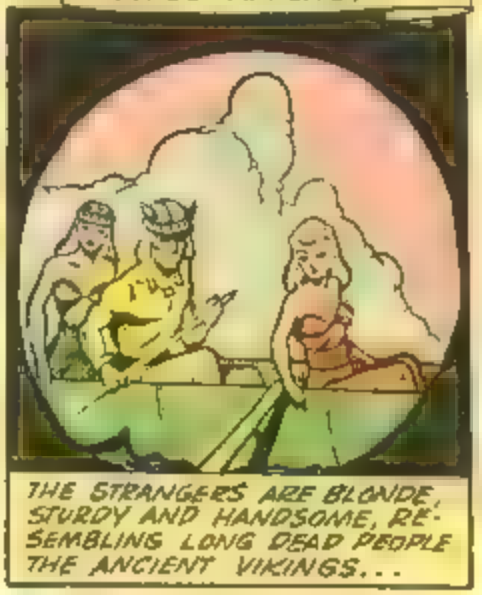

COMES NIGHTFALL, THEY TOSS ANCHOR IN A STRETCH OF CALM WATER.
NORGE SLEEPS IN FITS AND STARTS.. AT DAWN'S FIRST LIGHT HE HOPS OUT OF BED AND..
OH! YOU WOULD BE UNDERFOOT! SOMETHING'S SCRAPIN' ON THE HULL!
YIPE!!!
HUH! HMM! JUST FER SPITE I'LL GET TO THE PORTHOLE FIRST!
CLUMSY! ALL I EVER DO IS PULL YOU OUTTA TROUBLE! OUCH!
YOU DON'T HAFTA BE SO TOUGH ABOUT IT!
THEN NORGE LOOKS OUT
HUH? HUH?! ICEBERGS! B-BUT THERE WASN'T A THING HERE LAST NIGHT!
66 GREEN ICEBERGS! AND ALL AROUND US TOO!
WE'RE C-CAGED IN! IN A L-LAKE OR SOMETHIN' IN THE MIDDLE O' THE SEA!
ALL HANDS ON DECK QUICK! SOUND ALARM! MAN THE TORPEDOES! STAND BY FOR ACTION!! FIRE WHEN READY! WOMEN AND CHILDREN.. OHH MY GOODNESS ULP!!
2

HALF-ASLEEP, THE CREW PILES ON DECK..
NAW! IT CAN'T BE!! I'M STILL DREAMING!
WHAT IS IT?
MY DEAR G.RL!..QUITE OBVIOUSLY IT'S A.. A.


MEANWHILE, HATCHES IN THE METALLIC GREEN BERGS ARE BEING THRUST OPEN, AND STRANGE FIGURES APPEAR!

THEY'RE DRAGGIN' KAYAKS WITH 'EM!! WHAT THE DICKENS?

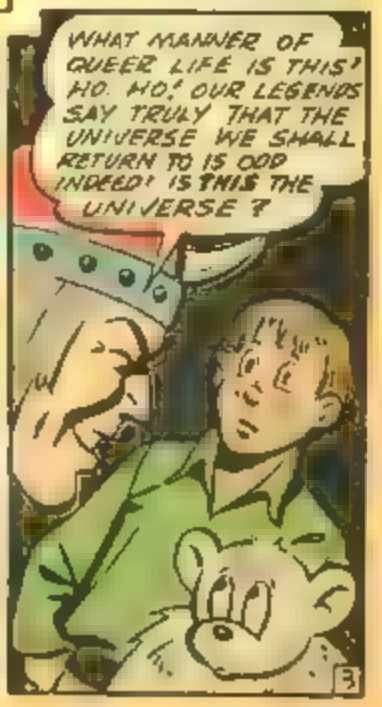

UNBELIEVABLE!! CAN THIS BE THE LOST PLANET?
HMM.. I WONDER. TO ME IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE LOST, CAP'N!


THE STRANGERS ARE BLONDE, STURDY AND HANDSOME, RESEMBLING LONG DEAD PEOPLE THE ANCIENT VIKINGS...

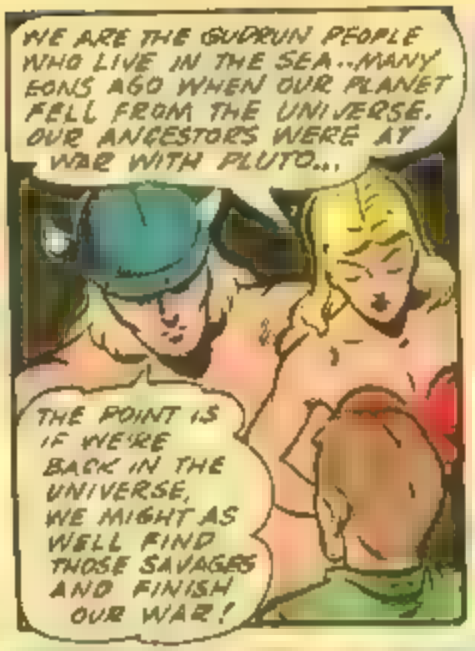
FROSTING BENDS TOO FAR OVER, THE BETTER TO GAPE...
HEY!
C' CATCH M. ME O.QUICK!

A LARGE KAYAK NEARLY SLAMS THEM BOTH INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS

CEASE ROWING! WE HAVE TWO STRANGE FISH TO CATCH!
GLUB UGGLE BUB.
GLUB UBBLE GUG.

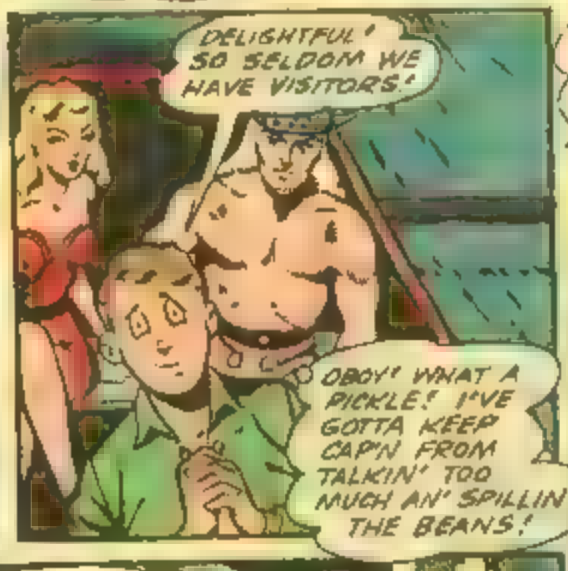

WHAT MANNER OF QUEER LIFE IS THIS? HO. HO! OUR LEGENDS SAY TRULY THAT THE UNIVERSE WE SHALL RETURN TO IS ODD INDEED! IS THIS THE UNIVERSE?
3

SURE, SURE, FOLKS! THIS IS THE UNIVERSE!! AT LEAST I'VE BEEN TAUGHT SO ALL MY LIFE!
MY! THAT'S A RELIEF!


WE ARE THE GUDRUN PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE SEA..MANY EONS AGO WHEN OUR PLANET FELL FROM THE UNIVERSE. OUR ANCESTORS WERE AT WAR WITH PLUTO..
THE POINT IS IF WE'RE BACK IN THE UNIVERSE, WE MIGHT AS WELL FIND THOSE SAVAGES AND FINISH OUR WAR!

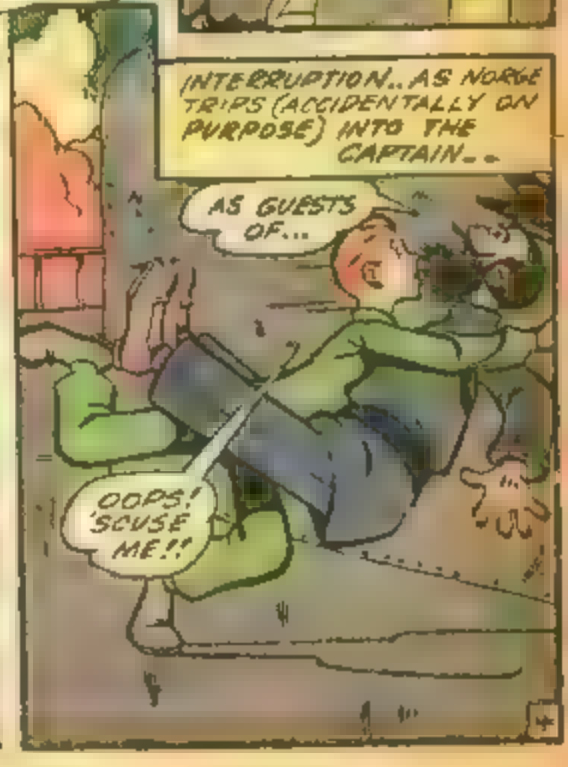
B. BUT YOU C. CAN'T DO THAT!! B.B. BECAUSE..
OMIGOSH! I CAN'T LET 'EM KNOW WE'RE PLUTONIANS!

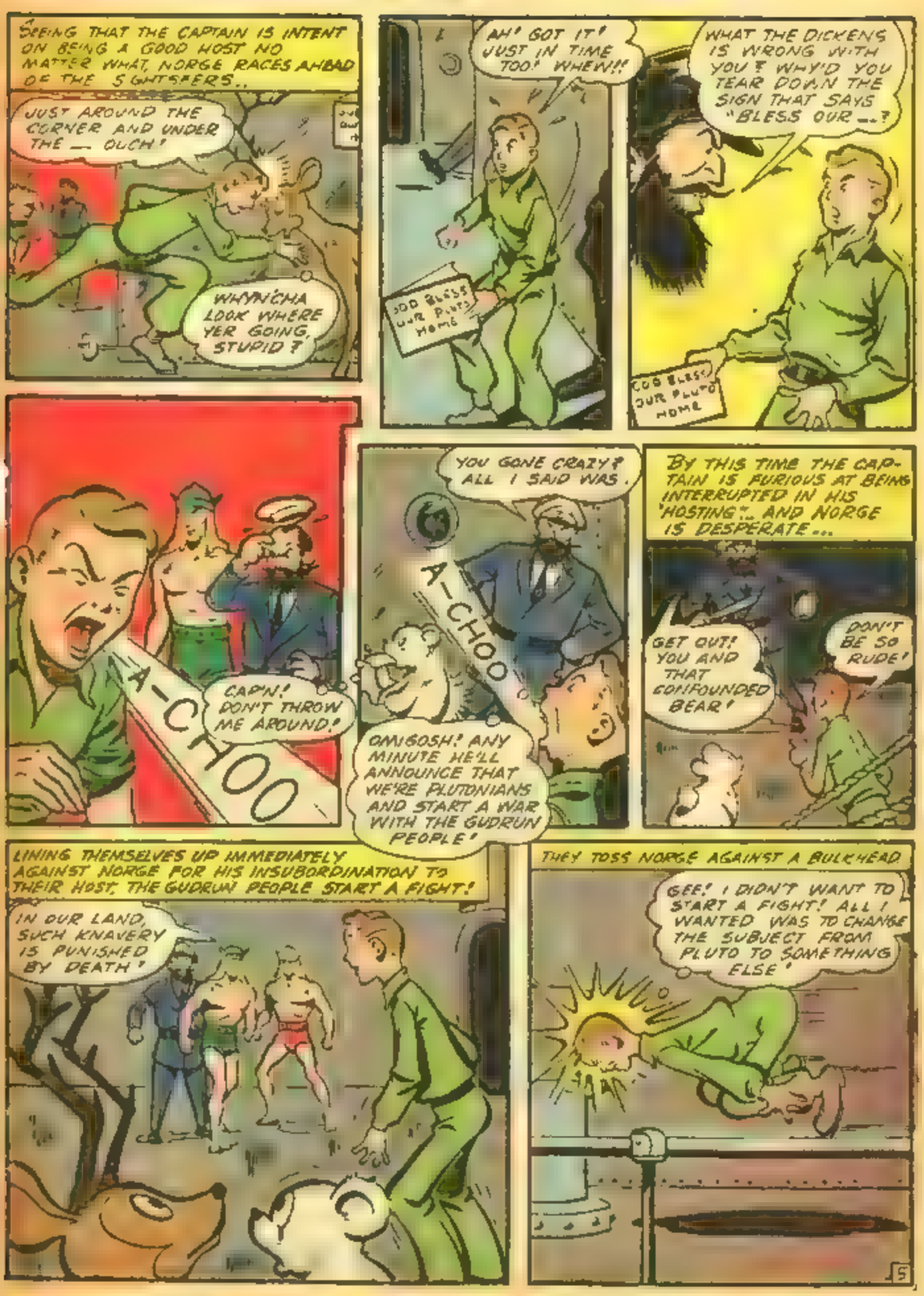
MEANWHILE, THEY ARE ALL DRIFTING CLOSE TO THE ASTRID Q.
NORGE!! BRING THEM ABOARD!


DELIGHTFUL! SO SELDOM WE HAVE VISITORS!
OBOY! WHAT A PICKLE! I'VE GOTTA KEEP CAP'N FROM TALKIN' TOO MUCH AN' SPILLIN' THE BEANS!

WELCOME TO OUR SHIP STRANGERS!
IF THEY FIND OUT WHO WE ARE WE'VE GOT A WAR ON OUR HANDS! AN' I JUST AIN'T IN THE MOOD!

WELCOME.. WELCOME! WOULD YOU LIKE TO TOUR IN OUR VESSEL AS GUESTS OF...
HMM.. GIRLS ARE NATURAL BLONDES.. I HOPE NORGE DIDN'T NOTICE!!


INTERRUPTION.. AS NORGE TRIPS (ACCIDENTALLY ON PURPOSE) INTO THE CAPTAIN..
AS GUESTS OF...
OOPS! 'SCUSE ME!!


SEEING THAT THE CAPTAIN IS INTENT ON BEING A GOOD HOST NO MATTER WHAT, NORGE RACES AHEAD OF THE SIGHTSEERS..
JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND UNDER THE — OUCH!
WHYN'CHA LOOK WHERE YER GOING, STUPID?
AH! GOT IT! JUST IN TIME TOO! WHEW!!
GOD BLESS OUR PLUTO HOME
WHAT THE DICKENS IS WRONG WITH YOU? WHY'D YOU TEAR DOWN THE SIGN THAT SAYS "BLESS OUR —"?
GOD BLESS OUR PLUTO HOME
A-CHOO
CAPN! DON'T THROW ME AROUND!
YOU GONE CRAZY? ALL I SAID WAS.
A-CHOO
OMIGOSH! ANY MINUTE HE'LL ANNOUNCE THAT WE'RE PLUTONIANS AND START A WAR WITH THE GUDRUN PEOPLE!
BY THIS TIME THE CAPTAIN IS FURIOUS AT BEING INTERRUPTED IN HIS "HOSTING".. AND NORGE IS DESPERATE...
GET OUT! YOU AND THAT CONFOUNDED BEAR!
DON'T BE SO RUDE!
LINING THEMSELVES UP IMMEDIATELY AGAINST NORGE FOR HIS INSUBORDINATION TO THEIR HOST, THE GUDRUN PEOPLE START A FIGHT!
IN OUR LAND, SUCH KNAVERY IS PUNISHED BY DEATH!
THEY TOSS NORGE AGAINST A BULKHEAD
GEE! I DIDN'T WANT TO START A FIGHT! ALL I WANTED WAS TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT FROM PLUTO TO SOMETHING ELSE!
5

FROBISHER THROWS HIMSELF AT A GUDRUN MAN TO KEEP HIM FROM MAKING A REAR STRIKE ON NORGE'S SKULL...

WHILE JOLIE INDULGES IN OLD-FASHIONED HAIR PULLING WITH A GUDRUN GIRL,

NATURAL, NUTS!! IT'S BLACK AT THE ROOTS!

HO! RIP THE SAILS!

OPEN THE SEACOCKS! SINK IT!

SUDDENLY

LOOK! OUR PLANET IS SINKING AGAIN!

AND NORGE HAS THE LAST WORD.

HEY! NOW THAT THEY'RE OFF OUR SHIP LISTEN TO THIS WE'RE FROM PLUTO!

SO??

WITHOUT ANOTHER BLOW OF COMBAT GUDRUN MEN AND WOMEN PILE INTO THEIR KAYAKS, AND DISAPPEAR INTO THE SINKING BERGS!

SO I HADDA KEEP YOU FROM TELLING THEM WE WERE BEFORE, BECAUSE THEY'RE AT WAR WITH PLUTO FROM WAY BACK.. DIDN'T I??

WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT WAS PEACE?

OH NUTS! JUST LEMME ALONE! WHATEVER I DO I'M IN TROUBLE!

HMM..I'LL SAY! WELL, I'LL JUST CHUCK THIS GLOBE OVER! NOBODY AT HOME ON PLUTO WILL BELIEVE WE FOUND THE LOST PLANET!

AND THEN LOST IT AGAIN!

BUY ANOTHER BOND **TODAY!**

SPACE RANGERS
WITH AN ALMOST INAUDIBLE ROAR A LONE ROCKET SHIP DRONES THROUGH THE AIRLESS VOID ON LANE K-6 EARTHBOUND.
HEY REEF TAKE A GANDER AT VARA. SHE'S AS WHITE AS A GHOST!
INSIDE
THE VIZO-SCREEN.. LOOK!
WHAT'S WRONG VARA?
HUH!
HER EYES WIDEN IN ASTONISHMENT AT THE EERIE SCENE...

HECK, NOTHING BUT THAT OLD MODEL DERELICT SPACE SHIP.. AND WRONG WAY IN THE EXPRESS SPEED LANE AT THAT!
BUT THE MEN? THE METAL MEN?
WHAT MEN? YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS!
BUT I TELL YOU, I DID SEE SOMETHING, SOMETHING WALKING ON AIR!
BOY, WHAT AN IMAGINATION! WHAT NOW, FLINT?
GRAPPLING HOOKS, REEF! WE'LL BOARD HER AND TAKE A LOOK-SEE BEFORE BLASTING HER OUT OF THIS LANE
YOU STAY ABOARD, VARA. AFTER ALL, THOSE MEN...
NOT ON YOUR LIFE! MAYBE I DID MISTAKE SEEING THOSE ROBOTS, BUT I'M NOT STAYING BEHIND AND MISSING A CHANCE FOR EXCITEMENT!
CAREFULLY FLINT INCHES NEARER, MAGNETIC HOOKS POISED..
CONTACT! FULL POWER IN MAGNETS
THEN..
I'LL OPEN THE PORT WITH MY ACETO-RAYGUN.. SAY, LOOK AT THIS OLD TUB! MUST HAVE BEEN USED WAY BACK IN THE 2500'S!
THIS IS QUEER. EVERYTHING COMPLETELY IN ORDER, JUST AS THOUGH...
..AS THOUGH SOMEONE JUST LEFT A FEW MINUTES AGO? BUNK!.. THAT STALE SHUT-UP ODOR ISN'T SCHLEMEIL No 5!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU BOYS, BUT I'M GOING TO EXPLORE!
CAN'T STOP VARA'S CURIOSITY CAN YOU REEF? LOOK AT THESE CLOTHES! SOMETHING LIKE ZOOT SUITS!
LISTEN! THOSE SCREAMS... VARA'S IN TROUBLE!
2

QUICK, STEP ON IT!
I KNEW I SHOULD'VE MADE HER STICK WITH US!
AS THEY NEAR THE TAIL SECTION..
VARA! YOU'RE SAFE! BUT STOP THAT CRAZY SCREAMING!
OHH! REEF FLINT, LOOK!"
WHAT IS THIS?
PLASTIC COFFINS.. BODIES... HOLY HANNAH!
WAIT! UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THESE ARE NOT DEAD BODIES!
HUH? COME AGAIN, BROTHER!
AT LEAST NOT COMPLETELY DEAD.. PROBABLY A DOCTOR WOULD CALL IT A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION!
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE! THAT DOOR OVER THERE WITH THAT BIG RED SEAL!
A SEALED ROOM! GOSH ANOTHER MYSTERY! MAYBE WE OUGHT TO OPEN IT!
HANDS OFF! WE'RE SCOOTIN' BACK TO EARTH AS FAST AS WE CAN!
HOURS LATER, WITH THE DERELICT IN TOW...
THE NEWS ABOUT US MUST HAVE LEAKED OUT.. LOOK AT THE CROWD WAITING FOR US!
3

SOON LEARNED MEDICOS EXAMINE THE CORPSES..
I CAN'T FATHOM THIS, DOCTOR GORDON. DEAN'TELY NO HEART BEAT AND YET ABSOLUTELY NO SIGNS OF PHYSIOLOGICAL DETERIORATION! PERHAPS AN AUTOPSY..
NO WE'LL ATTEMPT SOMETHING NEW ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE MAY PRODUCE SOME ORGANIC CHANGES!
SO, MR. BAKER, WE DEEM IT ADVISABLE THAT THEY REMAIN UNDISTURBED.
I GOT YOU, DOC.. I'LL HAVE A GUARD POSTED AROUND THIS OLD SHIP.
THE FACE OF THE MAN IN THE COFFIN.. CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY MIND SURE I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE, BUT WHERE? WAIT.. I'VE GOT A HUNCH..
MINUTES LATER, AT N.Y. POLICE HEADQUARTERS
COULD I SEE THE CRIMINAL FILES? SAY ABOUT TWO-THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO?
CERTAINLY.. STEP THIS WAY AND I'LL START THE PROJECTOR...
AS SUCCESSIVE PICTURES FLASH ON THE SCREEN.
0352 793-Y12
NO.
1089829-X4
NO! NOT HIM!
5389210-A4
NO!
5930281-C2
NO!
SUDDENLY
WHY, WHY THAT'S GORA! A FAMOUS DICTATOR. BANISHED FROM THE EARTH WAY BACK IN 2506!
STOP THE MACHINE, THAT'S THE MAN! SAME FACE, EXCEPT FOR THE BEARD!
MEANWHILE, IN THE DARKENED COFFIN ROOM, A MACABRE SCENE TAKES PLACE AS THE STIFF FIGURES SLOWLY, SLOWLY RISE FROM THEIR DEATHLESS SLUMBER...

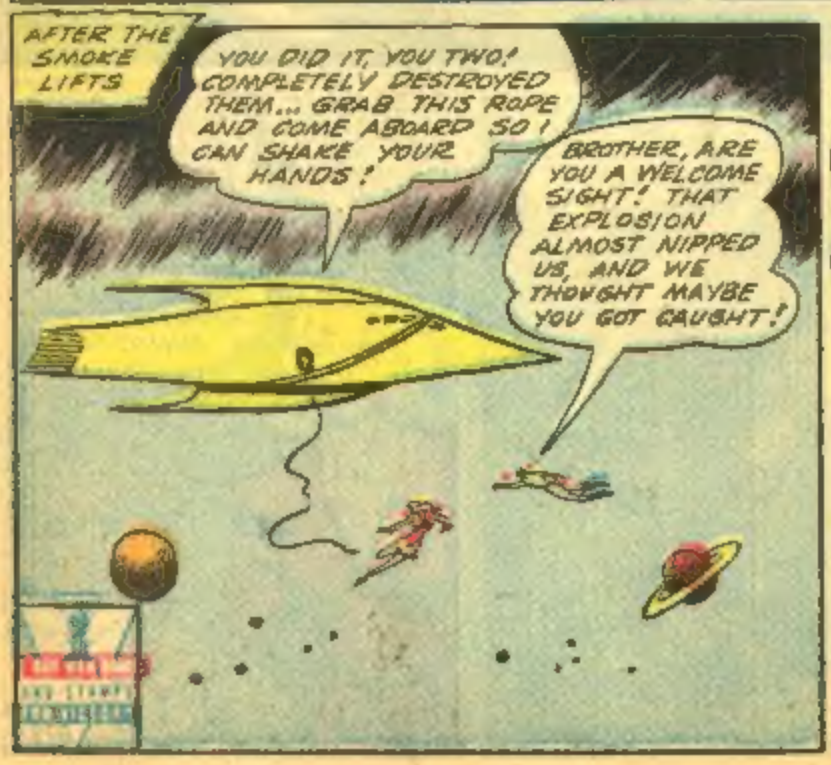
THEN.
TANA, IT WORKED! WE'RE THROUGH!
GORA, I DON'T LIKE THIS... I'M AFRAID!
DON'T BE SILLY! JUST THINK, EVEN THOUGH OUR GRANDFATHER'S BEEN DEAD OVER A CENTURY, HIS PLAN TO GET US PAST THE AUTHORITIES WORKED!
BUT WE TOO HAVE BEEN BANISHED!
BANISHED BECAUSE HE ATTEMPTED TO RULE THE UNIVERSE! BUT I'LL CARRY ON, TANA.. FIRST TO SET THIS TIME-LOCK TO GO OFF IN THIRTY MINUTES. INSIDE ARE ENOUGH EXPLOSIVES TO BLAST NEW YORK OFF THE FACE OF THE GLOBE!
GORA NO! I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF THIS!
AND NOW TO RADIO MY MECHANICAL MICA MEN TO CAPTURE EXERDU, FOR USE AS A BASE TO OVERRUN THE WORLD!
YOU'RE NOT MY BROTHER! YOU, YOU'RE A SADISTIC DEVIL!
MEANWHILE..
CAN'T STOP NOW, REEF. JUST GOT A REPORT FROM EXERDU.. THEY'VE SIGHTED ROBOT MEN WALKING ON AIR...
WAIT! TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PHOTOGRAPH!
HEY! IT'S THE SAME GUY WHO'S IN THE COFFIN! AND THE NAME HERE.. GORA!
RIGHT! NOT THE SAME ONE, BUT A CLOSE RELATION! ANYWAY, THE ORIGINAL GORA HAD IDEAS ON RULIN' THE UNIVERSE, AND I GOTTA HUNCH THIS BOY'S UP TO THE SAME TRICKS!
MINUTES LATER..
'N, OH, THE SPACE SHIPS STILL THERE! SAY, HOW DO YOU FIGURE THE GAL IN THIS SET-UP!
SEARCH ME.. BUT WE'LL SOON FIND OUT! BLINK YOUR LIGHTS SO THE GUARDS WILL PASS US THROUGH!
HEY, THE COFFIN ROOM DOOR IS OPEN! C'MON!
AS THE PORTAL SWINGS WIDE..
TOO LATE, SPACE RANGERS! YOU'RE GOING TO DIE AS ARE ALL OTHER EARTH PEOPLE!
5

BUT AS GORA PRESSES THE DISCHARGE LEVER..
NO! I WON'T LET YOU MURDER!
TANA YOU FOOL!! OOH!
DEAD! AND THANKS FOR THE ASSIST.. IF YOU HADN'T GRABBED HIS ARM I'D BE THE DEAD ONE!
MY BROTHER.. DEAD!
YOUR BROTHER! GOSH WE'RE SORRY MISS
DON'T WASTE YOUR TEARS. IT'S BETTER THIS WAY! LISTEN.. WITH THE HELP OF MY GRAND FATHER HE INVENTED THESE MECA MONSTERS HE'S ALREADY RADIOED THEM TO ATTACK EXERDU AND BY THIS TIME THEY MUST BE THERE! ONLY GORA KNOWS THE WORDS TO STOP THEM AND HE'S.
SUDDENLY..
REEF! TAKE CARE OF TANA! I'VE GOT TO STOP THOSE ROBOTS!
WAIT! COME BACK! OH, HE DIDN'T HEAR ME!
THAT SEALED ROOM!.. ENOUGH EXPLOSIVE TO SMASH NEW YORK.. TIME LOCK SET TO GO OFF IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!
WHAT? C'MON, HONEY, YOU AND I ARE GOIN' PLACES!
MEANWHILE..
AS LONG AS THOSE MEN HAVE METAL IN 'EM, THIS RADIO-RADAR LOCATOR SHOULD PICK THEM UP!
LET'S SEE.. EMANATION FROM AMBIENCE K7. VORTEX 32°. CROSS HAIRS. BULL'S-EYE! I'VE SPOTTED THEM, NEAR EXERDU!
MINUTES LATER
RIGHT ON THE HEAD! THOUSANDS OF 'EM! LOADED IN SOME KIND OF TRANSPARENT PLASTIC SPACE BARGES.. NO WONDER VARA THOUGH THEY WERE WALKING ON AIR! NOW FOR A LITTLE RAY GUN MAGIC!
6

GENERATORS HISS SHARPLY AS MULTI-MOUNTED RAY GUNS BLAST AT THE SPACE BARGES LOADED WITH MICA MEN...
THEN..
MY GUNS..THEY'RE USELESS! ONLY STOPPED ONE OF THEM!
..AND THERE MUST BE THOUSANDS! AT THAT RATE IT'D TAKE ME FOREVER.. BUT I'VE GOT TO KEEP PLUGGIN'!
AGAIN AND AGAIN FLINT HAMMERS THE SNAKING ENDLESS LINE WITH POWERFUL BLOWS, BUT WHERE ONE FALLS, ANOTHER STEPS FORWARD TO FILL THE GAP...
AT THAT MOMENT..
LOOK, THE ROBOT MEN! AND ISN'T THAT FLINT'S SHIP BLASTING THEM?
IT IS! HOLD THIS TUB ON HER COURSE AND I'LL GIVE HIM A BUZZ!
FLINT! OUT OF THE WAY.. GET BACK!
OKAY, REEF, YOU'RE CARRYIN' THE BALL!
REEF, WHAT IS IT? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS, HONEY. BUCKLE ON YOUR SAFETY BELT AND JUMP! THAT SEALED ROOM IN THE BACK IS DUE TO EXPLODE IN EXACTLY THREE MINUTES!
7

SETTING THE AUTOMATIC CONTROLS, REEF POINTS THE DEATH SHIP FOR THE HORDE-FILLED BARGES, AND THEN...
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, TANA! TWO MINUTES LEFT, AND WHEN IT GOES OFF, I WANT TO BE FAR, FAR AWAY!

WITH A WHITE HOT ROAR, THE CRAFT EXPLODES, TURNING GLEAMING METAL MONSTERS INTO BITS OF FLAMING RED WRECKAGE..


AFTER THE SMOKE LIFTS
YOU DID IT, YOU TWO! COMPLETELY DESTROYED THEM... GRAB THIS ROPE AND COME ABOARD SO I CAN SHAKE YOUR HANDS!
BROTHER, ARE YOU A WELCOME SIGHT! THAT EXPLOSION ALMOST NIPPED US, AND WE THOUGHT MAYBE YOU GOT CAUGHT!

FUNNY.. MY RAY GUNS WERE PRACTICALLY USELESS, BUT THAT EXPLOSION.. GUESS THE TREMENDOUS CHARGE, PLUS THE INTENSE HEAT TURNED THE TRICK! SAY, YOU TAKIN' CARE OF TANA?
AND HOW, FLINT! I'M HER... AH... NEW BIG BROTHER!
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